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April 483

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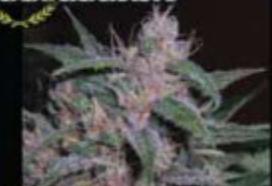
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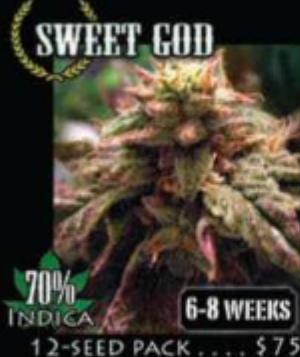
CHEM FIRE
HYBRID
9-10 WEEKS
12-SEED PACK \$75



THE BIG
MOSTLY INDICA
8-9 WEEKS
12-SEED PACK \$75



NIGHT NURSE
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7-8 WEEKS
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12-SEED PACK \$75



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70% SATIVA
LATE SEPT. OUTDOOR
12-SEED PACK \$75



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80% INDICA
7-9 WEEKS
12-SEED PACK \$75



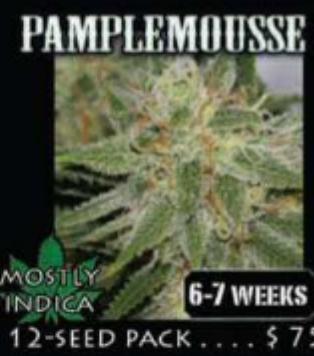
SWEET ISLAND SKUNK
70% SATIVA
8 WEEKS
12-SEED PACK \$75



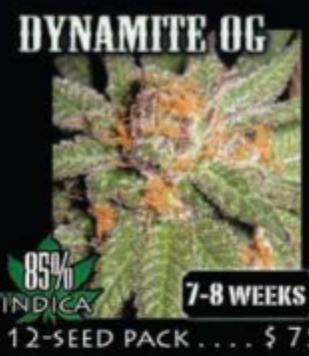
GOD'S GIFT
80% INDICA
8-9 WEEKS FLOWERING
FEMINIZED \$150



BLUE DREAM
HYBRID
9-10 WEEKS
12-SEED PACK \$75



PAMPLEMOUSSE
MOSTLY INDICA
6-7 WEEKS
12-SEED PACK \$75



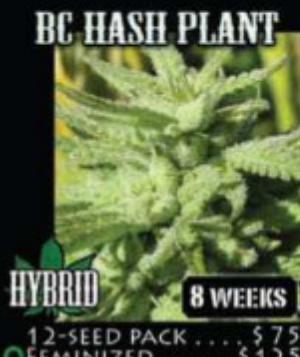
DYNAMITE OG
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7-8 WEEKS
12-SEED PACK \$75



UBC CHEMO
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8-9 WEEKS
12-SEED PACK \$75



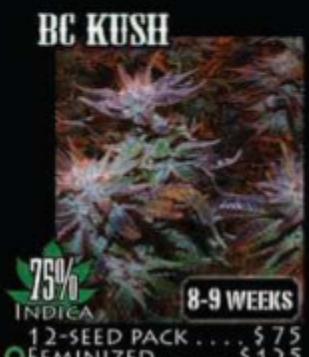
BC SWEET TOOTH
90% INDICA
6-7 WEEKS
12-SEED PACK \$75



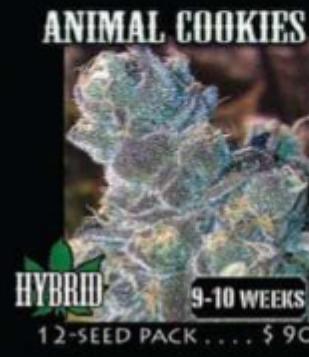
BC HASH PLANT
HYBRID
8 WEEKS
12-SEED PACK \$75
FEMINIZED \$125



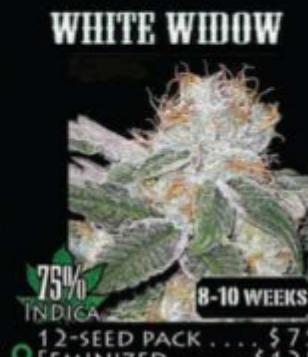
FIRE OG BX3
60% INDICA
9-10 WEEKS
12-SEED PACK \$75



BC KUSH
75% INDICA
8-9 WEEKS
12-SEED PACK \$75
FEMINIZED \$125



ANIMAL COOKIES
HYBRID
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12-SEED PACK \$90



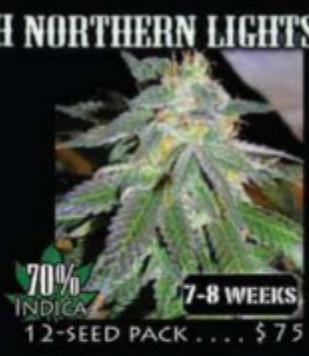
WHITE WIDOW
75% INDICA
8-10 WEEKS
12-SEED PACK \$75
FEMINIZED \$125



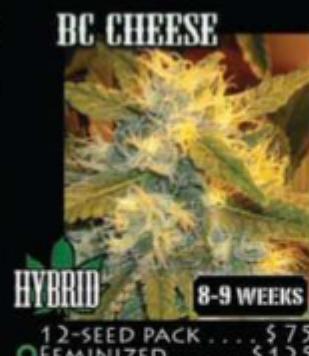
STRAWBERRY COUGH
75% SATIVA
9 WEEKS
FEMINIZED \$125



SOCAL MASTER KUSH
HYBRID
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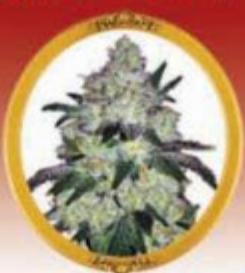
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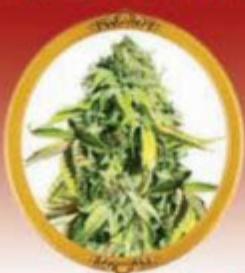
WHITE COOKIES (FEM)

10 SEEDS / \$110.00 QTY: _____
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TOTAL: _____



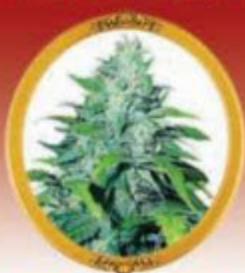
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HIGH TIMES APRIL



"For generations, the US has exported its war against ganja, and you folks have paid dearly. Right here, right now, in this room, we begin the export of our ganja-law reform as well, and you folks will reap the benefits."

—The Legal Ride, page 63

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Hillary Clinton's plan to reschedule pot leaves a lot to be desired.

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47 Peace, Love and Ganja

At the first-ever World Cannabis Cup in Jamaica, hosted by the Rastafari Rootzfest, countries and cultures came together for an incredible celebration of ganja. As the historic festival unfolded, it became much more than a High Times event. *By Emily Cegelski*

63 The Legal Ride

Securing entries for the World Cannabis Cup required a lengthy and sometimes hair-raising trip through the wilds of the Jamaican countryside. Take an epic ganja adventure on the back roads and trails of this beautiful island nation. *By Rick Cusick*

74 Brave New Cannabis World?

New innovations in biotechnology are helping scientists and bud breeders to map the marijuana genome and decode the secrets of cannabis on the cellular level. *By Green Born Identity (G.B.I.)*

89 Dawn of the Dank

How did early humans first figure out that the cannabis plant can get you high? Here's a paleontological look at how our ancestors embraced and advanced cannabis agriculture. *By Rick Thompson*

99 Three Pounds Per Light

A gorgeous, glossy new book touts the possibilities of harvesting huge in your indoor grow. Using techniques perfected in the commercial gardens of Colorado, you too can look forward to reaping three pounds of pot for every light in your growroom. *By Dan Skye*

109 The High Times Interview: Wayne Coyne

Flaming Lips frontman Wayne Coyne opens up about making music with Miley Cyrus, the power of live performance, and how he really feels about psychedelics. *By Mary Jane Gibson*



NEW AMSTERDAM NATURALS

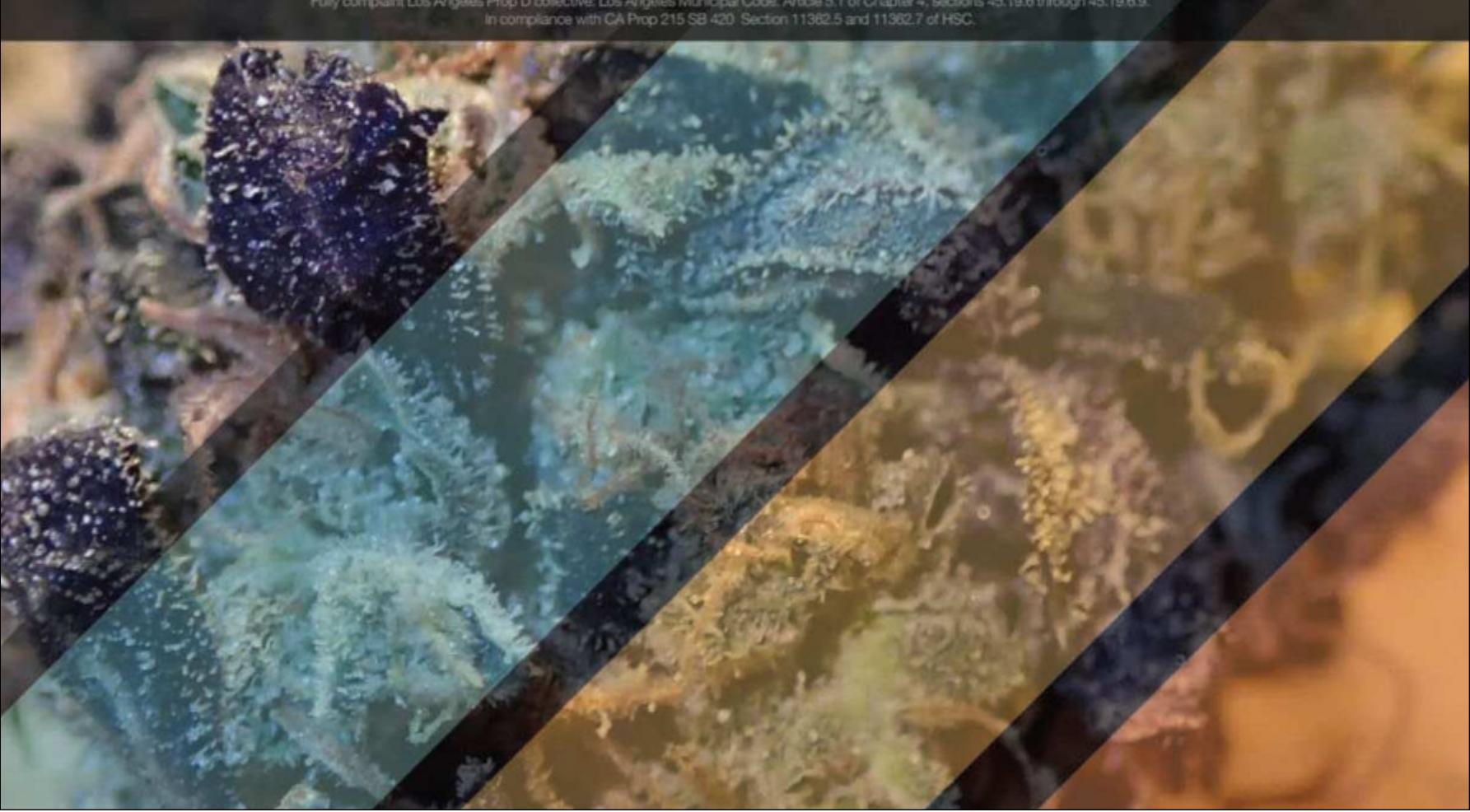
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Stoner Love

Valentine's Day is approaching, and love is in the air. For those stoners looking to attract Cupid's arrow this year, make sure to check out our online guides on "How to Know if a Stoner Is into You," on "The Best Pick-Up Lines for Stoners" and on "Where to Take Your Stoner Crush on a First Date."

Already in a relationship? Have no idea how to celebrate February 14 (circle that date in your calendar!) with your stoner love? No worries! We've got you covered as well. Visit our website for your "Valentine's Day Gift Guide," our list of "Perfect Valentine's Day Dates for Stoner Couples" and our weekly "Stoner Sex" column to keep the spice alive after you both stuff your faces with all the heart-shaped chocolate you can find.

POT POLL

What's Your Favorite Winter Activity To Do While High?

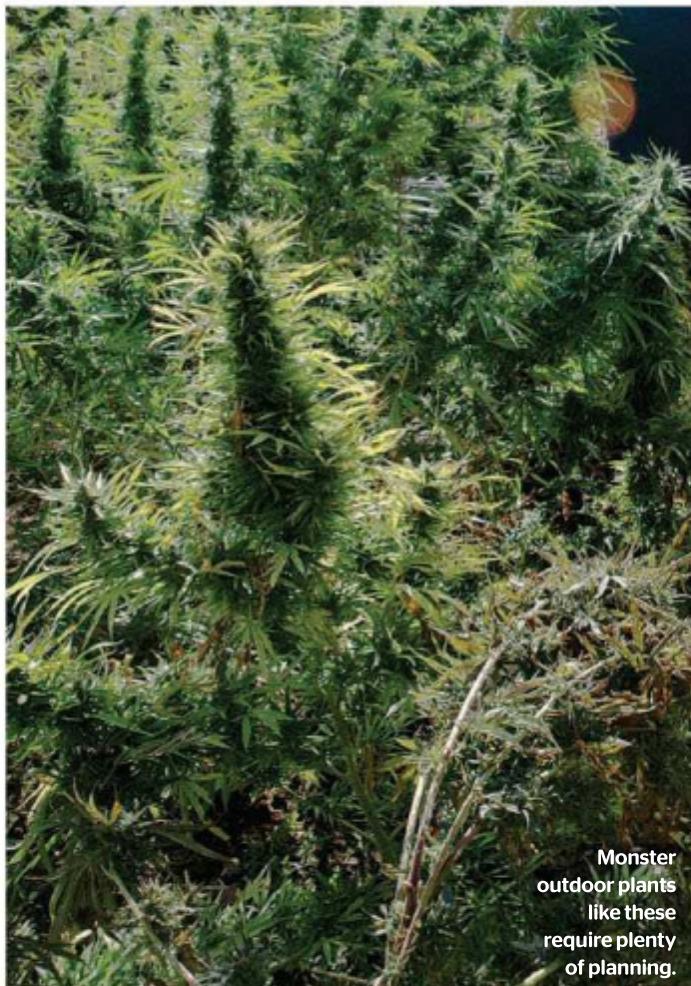
We couldn't decide what we enjoyed best about a stony winter, so we asked you: What's your favorite winter activity to do while high? With over 1,000 responses, cozy indoor activities won by a landslide. But two percent said that getting high is only a summer-time activity. Maybe those 25 voters should try taking up in a hot tub while it's snowing; we think you'll change your mind.

Cast your vote in our latest poll online!

Prep for Planting

Depending on where you live, it's probably a bit too early for you to start your outdoor planting, but if you want huge plants come harvest, it's definitely time to get your seedlings ready.

Get all the info you need on clones, seedlings and germination from our cultivation experts at hightimes.com



14% Traditional Outdoor Activities

(Skiing, Ice Skating, Sledding)

18% Extreme Outdoor Activities

(Snowboarding, Lugeing, Snow Kayaking)

12% Laid-Back Outdoor Activities

(Building Snowmen, Making Snow Angels, Ice Fishing)

45% Cozy Indoor Activities

(Snuggling in Front of a Fire, Reading, Binge Watching Netflix)

9% Creative Indoor Activities

(Baking, Knitting, Doing Holiday Arts & Crafts)

2% Nothing. Winter is dumb.

I only get high during the summer.

We Want To Hear From You!

Tweet your best high observations and comments our way @HIGH_TIMES_Mag for a chance to be featured on this page!

And make sure to follow us on Facebook/HIGHTIMESMag and on Instagram (@hightimesmagazine) for all the latest news as it's happening!

@WestCoastLib7: @HIGH_TIMES_Mag

You're supposed to watch Star Wars while high, all those effects and the backdrop of space makes it all the better.

@adudecalleddq: @HIGH_TIMES_Mag had a dream last night that bernie sanders was riding a moped and stopped me to talk about the election. then hillary pulled (1/2)

@adudecalleddq: @HIGH_TIMES_Mag up in a limo to try to take me around vegas and try to talk me about voting for her. Weird ass edible-induced dream (2/2)

@danmonaghan: @HIGH_TIMES_Mag As a stoner from the 70's...if it requires a blowtorch, it's too f'ing complicated. Just roll a fatty & chill.

@MoStoney: @HIGH_TIMES_Mag I am telling you this as a friend but do NOT trip for a month straight on mushrooms. Just don't do it.

@Sandman1774: @HIGH_TIMES_Mag A Stoners guide to staying #HIGH for the holidays was totally awesome! Now it's time to get my smoke on ;)

@KingGage_: @HIGH_TIMES_Mag posting all these pictures of bud while i wait on the plug is not helping i need to hit a J asap lol

@t_WEED_er: The best thing is sunday football and a few blunts #giants #weed #blunt #follow #marijuana @ HIGH_TIMES_Mag

@names_overrated: Just smoked a bowl, but I'm thirsty for more. Better smoke another one. @HIGH_TIMES_Mag Woke up, took up, smoke up. #marijuana #motivation

@xDOWNSOUTHx: @HIGH_TIMES_Mag @4Rare420_Rx We should all plant 50 cannabis seeds for every arrest these tyrants make. Fuck prohibition! #OverGrow

@StonermusicDMV: Everything is better when you're high @HIGH_TIMES_Mag

@tomzonets: @HIGH_TIMES_Mag @pimpcesskitty I want to see a "50% Off Jamaican Lambs' Breath" coupon insert show up in my mail next to the cable bill.

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A New Home for the Cup

After 27 years, High Times has moved its World Cannabis Cup to Jamaica. That wasn't our intention: For over a quarter of a century, we've invited marijuana aficionados from across the globe to gather in Amsterdam every November to sample genuine cannabis freedom and, of course, some of the best pot in the world. The Cannabis Cup has been instrumental in furthering the concept of legalization, with those in attendance asking themselves: "Why can't we have this in our own country, too?"

The funny thing is, as the acceptance of cannabis has grown in the United States, it has regressed in Holland. The number of coffeeshops there is being diminished, as conservative politicians rail against "narco-tourism"—the term they use to vilify an industry catering to responsible adults who wish to partake of a little pot in peace. Last year, our Cannabis Cup in Amsterdam was nearly crushed by the city's rabid opposition.

In February 2015, the Jamaica government decriminalized the personal possession of two ounces or less (now punishable by only a \$4 fine). Further revisions to the law permit each Jamaican household to grow a maximum of five plants, while adult Rastafarians—once severely persecuted by authorities for their spiritual use of ganja—can now use it freely for sacramental purposes. As a result, Jamaica loomed large as the logical location for the next World Cannabis Cup.

Working closely with Justice Minister Mark Golding, High Times was pleased to hold its inaugural Jamaica Cup under the auspices of the Rastafari Rootzfest, a celebration of Rasta culture that took place on the pristine Seven Mile Beach in Negril.

In this issue, read associate publisher Rick Cusick's epic tale of driving across the island nation procuring entries for the competition. Also, *HT* web editor Emily Cegielski reports on the four-day Caribbean bash, which featured great local ganja and stellar reggae acts, while fostering an increased understanding of the principles of Rastafarianism.

And last but certainly not least: Thanks to all the wonderful people of Jamaica for welcoming *High Times* magazine!

Dan Skye
Editor-in-Chief

HIGH TIMES

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Pot & Sex

Your "Pot & Sex" issue [Jan. '16] was awesome. My "friends with benefits" smoke pot all the time, so I've never had "straight" sex with them. It helps me relax and loosen up like alcohol does, but without becoming sloppy or obnoxious. Also, it doesn't have any interaction with Viagra—and I'm speaking firsthand.

Nate from Nashville

The "Pot & Sex" issue was a disappointment. Your demographic is likely 97 percent heterosexual. Dan Savage, who was the featured interview, may be a good guy, but the gay thing was meaningless for me. This issue had potential, but focusing on the fringe lost the connection with your core readers.

PJ Kibble

Pot & Pregnancy

I'm sure there are readers like me who are concerned with the effect that marijuana may have on pregnancies and newborns—specifically, whether it's safe or advised to breastfeed while using marijuana, and how it might affect the child's development. I have found very few studies that aren't prejudiced against cannabis, so I would be interested in finding more information on the subject.

Kassidy Sativa

Check out "Breathe, Push, Puff? Pot Use and Pregnancy: A Review of the Literature," by Paul Armentano at norml.org. Also, Ina May Gaskin, perhaps the world's most respected midwife, is forthright about the benefits of cannabis. You can easily find out what she has to say in numerous articles online.

New Export Territory

Its official: The USA grows the best weed in the world! People in Bogata, Colombia, now pay top dollar for American weed. They'd rather smoke Headband than Santa Marta Gold. American weed is now being smuggled into Colombia!

Roger B.

Job Hunting

I'm trying to become a legal grower for a dispensary or similar business. How would I go about getting the right permits and licenses?

KL

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High Times April 2016

Ganja Search

Your Jamaica Cannabis Cup is a great idea. We're coming to Negril, but do you have any suggestions for obtaining the best ganja while in Jamaica? Thanks for all you do—I read every issue of *High Times* from cover to cover. Your efforts are much appreciated.

Osage Bill in Oklahoma

Pot is never hard to find in Jamaica—you'll be approached by ganja dealers everywhere you go. But it's up to you to determine what's worth buying.

Miraculous Medicine

Three years ago, I was given an MRI that showed I had a brain tumor, which started in my mid-brain and ran down to the third and fourth vertebrae in my spine. It was located in a place where surgery was out of the question.

After many visits to many doctors, I was told that radiation was the only course for me. A doctor at Johns Hopkins explained that the goal of radiation was to stop the tumor's growth—and he warned me that, while there was occasionally some shrinkage in the tumor's size, not to expect much, if at all.

They put me on the powerful drug dexamethasone. I gained a lot of weight, lost muscle, even broke my leg because it robbed my body of calcium. It was supposed to help control the swelling in my brain from the radiation treatments.

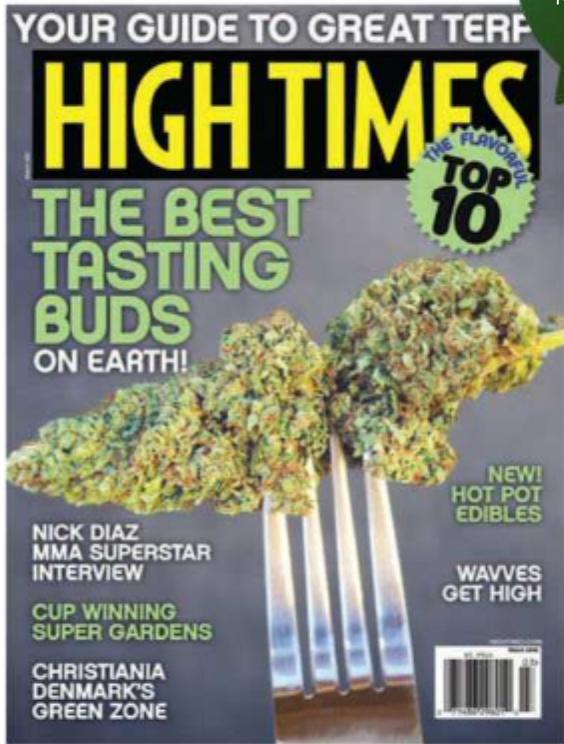
My wife was determined to find something better. After a lengthy search, we settled on two natural drugs: I started taking boswellia during the day and smoking pot at night. The boswellia helped keep the brain swelling down, and the pot helped me sleep. I had my latest MRI last week, and doctor was beside himself: There was no tumor, not even bright spots to show any cancer cells.

It's a shame that in order to save my life, I had to break the law. How many people go to an early grave because they don't know about the truly remarkable results of cannabis?

Mark Morris

CORRECTION

In "Big Ups to Cali" (Feb. 2016) Nuthin But Nectar Farms was referred to as "Nothing But Nectar Farms." We regret the error.



It's a shame that in order to save my life, I had to break the law. How many people go to an early grave because they don't know about the truly remarkable results of cannabis?

First and foremost, make sure you live in a state where medical or recreational use is legal. Next, do some basic research: "Permits and licenses," or the legal paperwork required to keep you out of trouble as a licensed grower, vary from state to state, so checking the official websites maintained by your state and local governments would be a good place to start. Last but not least, begin to make connections by reaching out to businesses that may be interested in your skills, provided that they're top-notch.

Seeds of an Idea

If NORML started a "Johnny Appleseed" campaign across the USA, there would be so much cannabis growing in the wild that the DEA and federal government would have to give in on legalization, plus the black market would be forced out. What are your thoughts?

Florida Reader

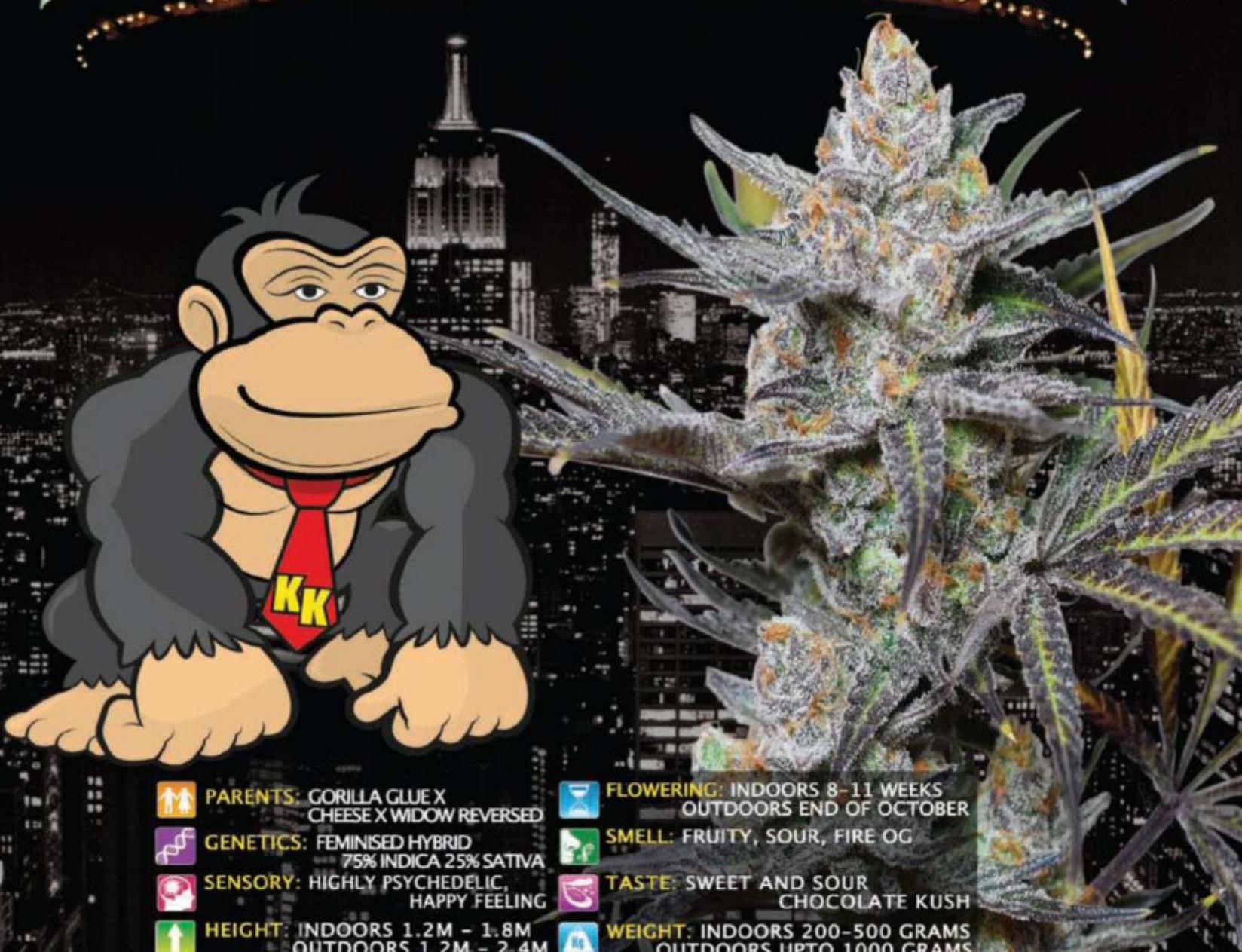
Not a bad idea ... for 20 years ago. But these days, we hope that people are smoking the good sinsemilla and don't have to deal with seeds anymore. The roadside "ditchweed" that the DEA trumpets as seized cannabis is actually the progeny of long-ago hemp crops from an era when the USA was the world's largest hemp producer. These days China is, and hemp is illegal in America!



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BRAVE NEW CANNABIS WORLD Recent advancements in the science of plant genetics and husbandry have opened up an entirely new future for marijuana biologists as biotechnology finds its way into professional cannabis breeding. Check out the article and photos by Green Born Identity (G.B.I.) on page 74 to see what the future holds. *Photo by Deliegh Hermes.*

**Contact
High**





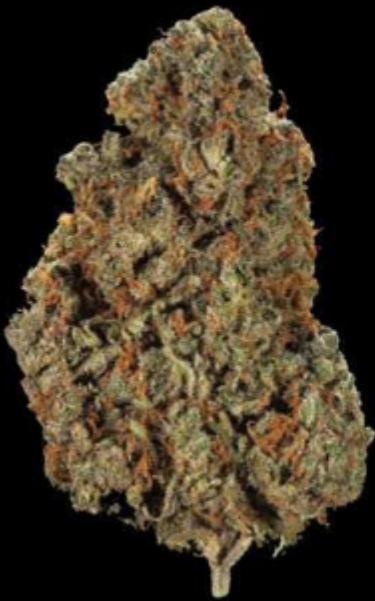


April 2016 High Times

17

JUNIOR'S GARDEN At our first World Cannabis Cup in Jamaica, Junior Gordon, who won two Cannabis Cups for *indica* and hash, invited High Times into his garden of verdant cannabis vegetation. Associate publisher Rick Cusick traveled the breadth of the island nation gathering the full slate of Cup entries. Read his tale in "The Legal Ride" on page 63. Photo by Dan Skye

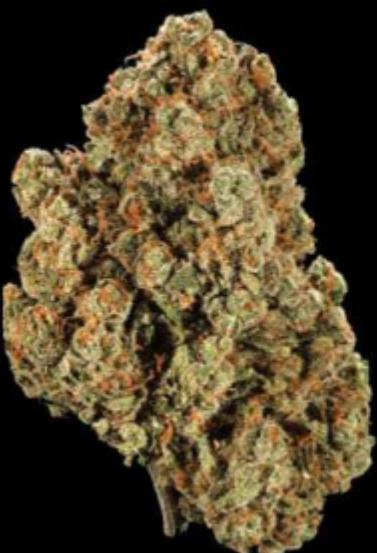
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YDK JACK
(Lorax Labs with CannaSutra LA
and 420DLVRY.com)



TROPICANA
(Cannabiotix)



ULTRA JACK
(New Amsterdam Naturals with
Pearl Pharma)



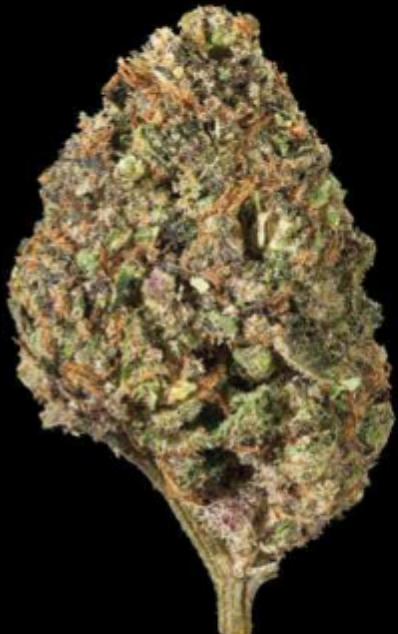
WHITE WALKER OG
(Cannabiotix)



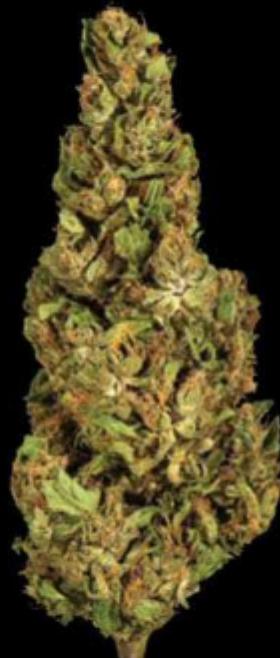
**STRAWBERRY
BANANA SHERBET**
(Crockett Family Farms)



CBD OG
(CRAFT)



TORABORA
(Vault Genetics)



APM
(Junior Gordon)



COLE #2

(St. Ann Botanical & Agro Processing Co-op)



TRUE OG
(Skinny and Andrew Williams from
Elemental Seeds)



LEGEND
(Machel A. Emanuel from Archie Genetics)



WHITE TANGERINE HAZE
(SunSpice, Igadi Global Ja, Louis Chase
and Maurice Ellis)

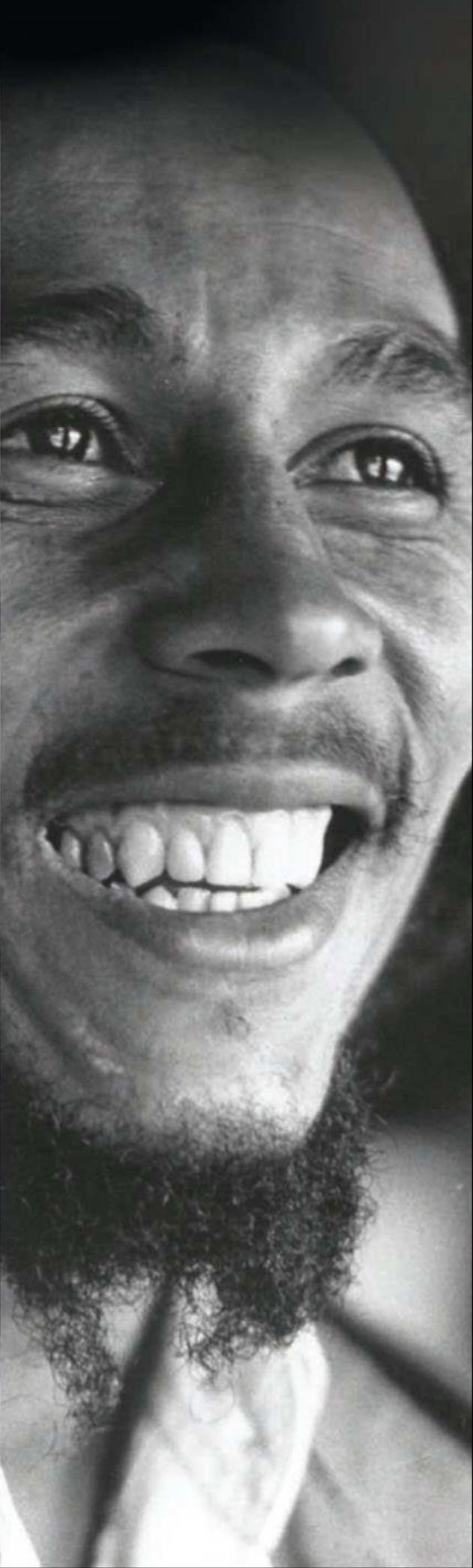


April 2016 High Times

WORLD CUP WINNERS When we arrived in Amsterdam in November 2014, no one expected that our annual Cannabis Cup would receive the harassment it did. But afterwards, a whole new venue presented itself—Jamaica! Last year, cannabis use was legalized for Rastafarians and a decrim policy was passed. Feast your eyes on the world's best buds! Photos by Lochfoot.

19

Contact
High



REBEL YELL

They live life to the beat of a different drummer, are sure of who they are and what they stand for.

They're the free and forward thinkers, innovators and creators whose ideas and words inspire, polarize, spark imaginations and powerfully connect.

They're rebels, outcasts, Davids in a world of Goliaths, that come from the least likely of places.

They tread where others fear to go, dislike conforming to the norm, and don't care much for the man or his machine because they truly embrace freedom.

It's hard to fool them because they have a clear perspective on the world and see things for what they really are.

They're fiercely aware of what's right and wrong, speak their minds and take no prisoners.

They look at life differently, society can't pigeon hole them or put them in box, and they see things where others don't.

Their ideas are sometimes out on the fringe, the ragged edge. They have to be, because they're open to the possibilities and realities that change the world.

Some see them as a fish out of water, trouble makers and oddballs. We see them as gifted, profound and uniquely brilliant.



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and Living One
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Highwitness News

Killer
Mike Vets
Bernie
Sanders



Hillary's plan
won't get you
fired up.

Style

High-End Wine Glass

Bongs find a new purpose in this LA hotspot. p.33



Entertainment

Black Metal and Buds

NYC's Krallice talks touring and toking. p.36



Schedule II? Not So Fast!

Why Hillary Clinton's rescheduling plan doesn't go far enough.

By Paul Armentano

Speaking at a recent campaign stop in South Carolina, Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton called for reclassifying marijuana under the federal Controlled Substances Act, moving it from Schedule I—the most restrictive category—to Schedule II. “The problem with medical marijuana is, there is a lot of anecdotal evidence about how well it works for certain conditions,” Clinton opined. “But we haven’t done any research. Why? Because it is considered

what is called a Schedule I drug, and you can’t even do research in it.”

To resolve this dilemma, Clinton said, she would move marijuana from Schedule I to Schedule II, “so that researchers at universities [and the] National Institutes of Health can start researching what is the best way to use it—how much of a dose does somebody need, how does it interact with other medications.”

Although Clinton’s call for rescheduling represents a modest improvement

in her willingness to address America’s failed Drug War, her newfound stance is hardly progressive. Various marijuana-law reform advocates, including NORML and *High Times*, have filed administrative petitions over the course of the last few decades seeking to repeal pot’s Schedule I status.

Even among the 2016 presidential candidates, Clinton’s position isn’t unique. This past spring, Republican hopeful Rand Paul co-sponsored congressional

legislation that would move cannabis to Schedule II. In September, Democratic candidate Martin O’Malley pledged that, if elected, he would use his executive powers to reschedule pot. And in November, Clinton’s leading Democratic rival, Bernie Sanders, introduced legislation in the Senate to strike both marijuana and THC from the federal criminal code.

While Sanders’s bill would significantly transform America’s marijuana policies, Clinton’s rescheduling proposal would actually do little to change the existing landscape. Moreover, her premise that scientists have yet to do any meaningful research on cannabis and its effects is woefully incorrect.

Unlike conventional pharmaceuticals, the marijuana plant possesses an extensive history of human use dating back thousands of years, thereby providing us with ample empirical evidence as to its safety and efficacy. Moreover, despite cannabis’s modern-day politicization, the plant and its compounds have been subject to extensive scientific scrutiny. A search using the term “marijuana” on the website of the National Library of Medicine—the repository for all peer-reviewed scientific research—yields more than 22,000 papers referencing the plant and/or its constituents. Among this extensive body of literature are over 100 randomized controlled studies, involving thousands of subjects, evaluating the safety and efficacy of cannabis or individual cannabinoids. A 2012 review of several of these trials concluded: “Based on evidence currently available, the Schedule I classification is not tenable;

Marijuana shouldn’t be included in the Controlled Substances Act whatsoever because ample scientific evidence already exists disproving the government’s claim that it is among the most dangerous substances known to humankind.

it is not accurate that cannabis has no medical value, or that information on safety is lacking.”

In short, Clinton’s argument is both ignorant and unpersuasive. Marijuana shouldn’t be included in the Controlled Substances Act whatsoever because ample scientific evidence already exists disproving the government’s claim that it is among the most dangerous substances known to humankind. Moreover, moving cannabis to Schedule II—the same category as cocaine—continues to misrepresent the plant’s safety relative to other controlled substances, and fails to provide states with the ability to create their own pot policies free from federal interference.

Curiously, the federal regulations that make it so difficult to conduct research on marijuana in the United States—such as the requirement that all samples used must come from the University of Mississippi’s pot program, which was granted a virtual monopoly on cultivation by the federal government—apply only to cannabis, not to Schedule I drugs in general. Thus, simply moving cannabis to Schedule II will do nothing to change these regulations.

Finally, the sort of long-term Phase III trials that Clinton advocates—the

gold standard of medical research—are prohibitively expensive. Typically, such trials are funded by private pharmaceutical companies hoping to bring a product to market; in other cases, the federal government will assist in paying these costs. However, neither entity is likely to pony up the tens of millions of dollars necessary to conduct these trials for cannabis anytime soon, if ever.

This is not to say that rescheduling cannabis wouldn’t have any positive effects. At a minimum, it would bring an end to the federal government’s long-standing intellectual dishonesty about pot, especially the claim that it “lacks accepted medical use.” It would also likely result in state-compliant cannabis businesses being able to use banks and other financial services, and to take tax deductions similar to those enjoyed by other businesses.

But it would do little to significantly ameliorate federal prohibition or to make herbal cannabis accessible for clinical study. These goals can only be accomplished by de-scheduling cannabis completely and treating it in a manner similar to alcohol or tobacco. This will give states the power to establish their own marijuana policies, free from federal intrusion. 

HIGH FIVE

Holy Anti-Rollers

Backward-thinking religious groups continue to demonize pot. *By Mark Miller*

Catholic Church of Mexico

After the Mexican Supreme Court ruled on November 4 in favor of legalizing recreational cultivation and consumption for four individuals—thus paving the way for legalization nationwide—the Catholic Church condemned the ruling. The Archdiocese of Mexico City decried the “incredibly irresponsible decision that follows certain fads.” Pope Francis has likewise rejected the decriminalization of drugs.

ISIS

The Islamic State’s extremists are completely hypocritical. Fundamentalist Islam prohibits selling and using pot, and ISIS claimed responsibility for burning down Syrian marijuana fields in August 2014. Yet according to an April 2015 article in the Daily Beast, a Lebanese pot farmer—a Shiite who has fought against ISIS—confirmed that he sold one ton of blond hash to ISIS members last March, which he speculated was meant to fund their terrorist activities.

Ohio Council of Churches

The OCC bitterly opposed Issue 3, the failed November ballot measure that sought to legalize recreational marijuana in Ohio. The council peddled the long-discredited “gateway drug” canard, including a ludicrous claim that Issue 3 would result in more pot shops opening in Ohio than McDonald’s. Like that would be a bad thing in Ohio, which has the nation’s highest concentration of McDonald’s and an over 30 percent obesity rate.

Florida Family Policy Council

Florida’s 2014 medical pot measure, Amendment 2, initially seemed headed for victory, until an “anti-grassroots” campaign by the religious right defeated the ballot initiative. The Florida Family Policy Council led the charge, citing the federal prohibition of pot—and stoking fears of recreational legalization—to frighten GOP voters off medical marijuana in the state.

Southern Baptist Convention

The Christian denomination’s 15 million-plus members were told by SBC public and “moral” policy chief Russell Moore in January 2014 that the underlying motivation for legalizing medical pot is mere greed. Moore also declared that any therapeutic benefits from cannabis are negated by the social costs to the poor. But prohibition afflicts the impoverished far more in terms of criminal punishment and community degradation.

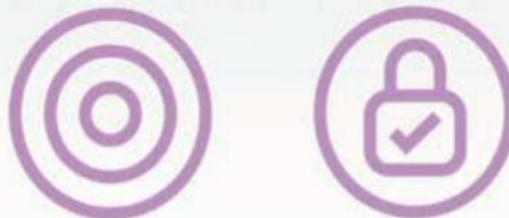
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Bungling Bud Burglar Bungles Burglary

Stealing marijuana is never smart. However, it's especially dumb to pilfer pot from a law enforcement evidence room. Yet that is exactly what Roderette Dewrayne McClure was sentenced for in Tyler, Texas Federal Court. McClure received 56 months in federal prison for conspiracy to distribute 110 pounds of pot he swiped from an East Texas Marshal's office.

During the break-in, McClure actually tried to cover up the crime by replacing the pot with fire-starter logs. He also left behind a fake note written in Spanish along with a map with directions from Brownsville, TX in a ham-handed attempt to make authorities believe a Mexican cartel was responsible for the theft.

McClure didn't limit himself to pot during his ill-conceived spree—he also stole cocaine, prescription drugs and firearms from the evidence room. The brazen thief was eventually busted after sending digital photos of the stolen pot to a potential buyer in Dallas.

OREGON POT PRICES TO SOAR



Cannabis testing lab professionals as well as pot shop owners in Oregon are predicting a likely spike in medical and retail marijuana prices next year due to new regulations taking effect in June 2016.

The Health Authority released a list of 59 pesticides that will have to be tested for in Oregonian legal weed, forcing labs to make investments in equipment to check pot for pesticides as well as increase labor hours to undertake such testing. These factors will inevitably drive up prices for the cannabis consumer.

Dispensary owners agree that the requirements will drive up all costs, which will ultimately be passed on to the customer.

Under the new regulations, legal pot is expected to undergo more rigorous testing than any other agricultural product in Oregon. The new rules come in the wake of an investigation by The Oregonian that revealed numerous pesticides in randomly tested strains.



KILLER INTERVIEW: Mike Sits Down with Bernie

Hip-hop artist, pot activist and High Times fave Killer Mike conducted a terrific one-on-one interview with Democratic presidential hopeful Bernie Sanders (I-VT) at Mike's Atlanta-based barbershop.

During the elucidating discussion on social justice, the subject eventually turned to marijuana legalization and Sanders blasting the "so-called war on drugs, which has destroyed many people's lives."

Bernie's proposed legislation, the Ending Federal Marijuana Prohibition Act, would remove pot from the Controlled Substances Act, allowing states to legalize without fear of interference from the federal government.

During the discourse, Sanders asked Mike what he thought of pot's current classification—the government views cannabis and heroin as equally dangerous. Killer Mike's answer? "I'm a marijuana smoker. That is absolute bullshit."

The racially biased aspect of pot prohibition was also part of the conversation. As Sanders noted, while relative use of cannabis is equal between white and black Americans, four times as many blacks are arrested for simple possession.

A Fine Fine

A Canadian judge fined a marijuana grower a mere C\$1, denouncing Canada's pot prohibition laws as "outdated and ridiculous" and referencing Prime Minister-elect Justin Trudeau's plans to eventually legalize recreational cannabis.

Mario Larouche, 46, was charged with growing 30 pot plants. He was facing 90 days in jail. Instead, Justice Pierre Chevalier imposed the symbolic one loonie fine on Mr. Larouche—who uses marijuana to manage pain stemming from a car accident in 2000.

Not only did Justice Chevalier refuse to legitimize the charges with a serious fine or jail sentence, he also openly questioned the wisdom of sentencing *anyone* to jail for a substance that half of all Canadians, including lawyers and judges, have sampled.

According to one drug policy expert, Justice Chevalier "is saying out loud what many other judges are muttering under their breath." Perhaps Trudeau's victory over pot prohibitionist Stephen Harper will lead to more judges courageously speaking out loud.



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Huge Pot Seizure at the Border

Nearly 5,000 pounds of pot—almost two and half tons—were confiscated by US Customs and Border Protection at New Mexico's Santa Teresa Port of Entry in the biggest marijuana seizure there in over a decade.

Officials were initially suspicious of two tankers hauled by a flatbed tractor-trailer. X-rays showed anomalies in the tankers and closer examination revealed a “green substance” that tested positive for pot. Border agents then drilled into the bottom of the two tankers, locating hidden compartments in each that contained a grand total of 4,938 pounds of compressed cannabis with an estimated street value of more than \$3.9 million.

According to the assistant port director, “This is the largest drug bust at Santa Teresa since February 1, 2002, when a 5,263-pound marijuana seizure was made at the port.” Apparently, smugglers go big at Santa Teresa.

Most Pot Rehab is Involuntary

According to a study from the federal government, the majority of Americans recently “treated” for marijuana abuse were referred there by the criminal justice system. These sobering stats were released by the US Department of Health and Human Services in December 2015.

The report finds that roughly 52 percent of all Americans 12 and older in rehab for pot between 2003-2013 were forced there by the criminal justice system (i.e., probation or parole officers, the courts, etc.).

Incredibly, the government’s own study finds only 18 percent of all those in treatment for pot admitted themselves, meaning most individuals in reefer rehab are being forced to participate. So much for prohibitionists proving pot’s addictiveness by citing how many people are in rehab for cannabis.

ILLINOIS BENEFITS FROM MARIJUANA WINDFALL



Illinois’ pot patients had to wait nearly two years for the state to implement its medical marijuana program. Better late than never. During the first month of legal medical pot sales, a total of 1,713 registered patients purchased nearly \$801,000 worth of weed from 16 state-licensed dispensaries.

There was good news for the cashed strapped state as well. Thanks to a 7 percent tax on wholesale marijuana sales, Illinois collected about \$56,550 in taxes in the first month alone. The encouraging figures were announced by Program Director Joseph Wright. Unfortunately, prices are still a bit high as the average gram costs about \$14.50.

The state’s medical cannabis law officially went into effect on January 1, 2014. However, bureaucratic interference and prohibitionist paranoia delayed implementation of the program until November 9, 2015.



Uruguay to Sell Three Levels of Pot

Uruguay’s National Drug Board president, Milton Romani, explained the country’s plan to sell three different types of legal recreational pot in pharmacies beginning the summer of 2016.

According to Romani, cannabis consumers will have three options, which currently carry the uninspired designations high, medium and low, depending on the percentage of THC.

Authorities carefully chose the cannabis from a number of strain options with various levels of THC and CBD. Romani added the importance of the “lowest level,” which is recommended by the Board for inexperienced smokers.

Legal weed in Uruguay will retail for around \$1.20 per gram (about \$33 an ounce). The price was intentionally set that low by the government in an effort to discourage black market competition seeking to undercut legit retail sales.

Adults can possess up to 40 grams of pot but only registered residents of Uruguay may buy buds.



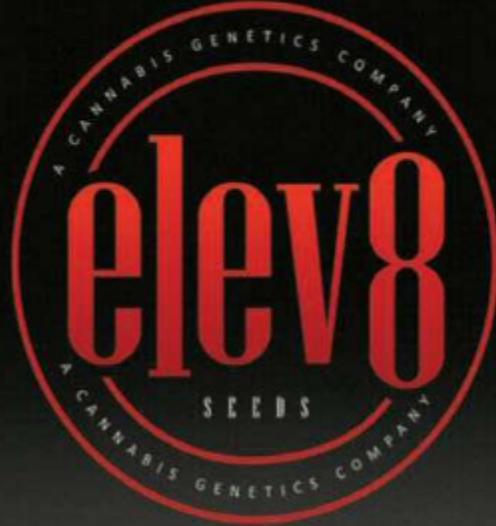
Everything is Made of Cocaine

Eleven people were arrested after an incredibly elaborate attempt to smuggle 3,000+ pounds of cocaine was foiled at the Port of Valencia in Spain. The international smugglers disguised their coke as 40 seemingly innocuous shipping pallets. That’s right, the shipping pallets themselves were actually made of cocaine. The cocaine was compressed to resemble wood. In fact, even the shipment on the shipping pallets—innocuous looking sacks of charcoal—was mostly cocaine. Makes you wonder what else is made of cocaine... the family dog? Your mom?

The shipment originated in Colombia and contained more than 3,300 pounds of coke worth an estimated \$370 million.

Forensic scientist Richard Hooker explained that it’s possible to disguise cocaine as shipping pallets by dissolving the white cocaine powder with a solvent and placing it in molds shaped like pallets. Dye was likely used to create a convincing wooden pallet color.

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HIGHWIRE

Dispatches from the international drug war. By Bill Weinberg

Afghanistan: A Pyrrhic Victory Against Opium?

Poppy cultivation in Afghanistan decreased 19 percent in 2015 compared with the previous year, according to the Afghanistan Opium Survey released in October by the Afghan Counter-Narcotics Ministry and the UN Office on Drugs and Crime. The area under cultivation is estimated at 183,000 hectares, compared with 224,000 in 2014—the first substantial decline since 2009. (Indeed, both 2013 and 2014 saw record-breaking years in opium production.) UNODC executive director Yury Fedotov said he hopes for efforts to “build on these hard-won achievements.”

The UNODC notes that the drop in production “can be attributed to a reduction in the area under cultivation, but more importantly to a drop in opium yield per hectare.” But it doesn’t offer an explanation for the lower yields; for that, you have to go to the actual text of the survey: “Reports from the field... pointed toward a lack of water, which may have affected field quality and thus yields.” In the age of global warming, growing aridity isn’t exactly good news. In any case, the reduction in yields appears wholly unrelated to eradication efforts.

Not mentioned by the survey is the burning of opium fields by ISIS, which is trying to gain a foothold in Afghanistan by stigmatizing the rival Taliban as drug traffickers. When they were in power, the Taliban cracked down on hashish



Mexico: High Court Upholds Individual Right to Cannabis

In a 4-1 decision on November 4, the Criminal Chamber of Mexico’s Supreme Court of Justice ruled that prohibiting the consumption and cultivation of cannabis for personal use is unconstitutional, thereby voiding five articles of the country’s principal narcotics statute, the General Health Law. The court found that the prohibition of cannabis use and cultivation for noncommercial purposes violates the right to “free development of the personality,” which is enshrined in Article 19 of the Mexican Constitution. The landmark decision applies only to the four individual plaintiffs in the case, but it lends weight to the legalization proposals being prepared in Mexico’s Congress.

The case was brought by the advocacy group Mexico United Against Crime on behalf of the Mexican Association for Responsible Self-Consumption and Tolerance (SMART), which petitioned for the right to form a cannabis club. That petition was denied, and SMART challenged the refusal in the courts. Said Justice Arturo Zaldivar, who wrote the majority opinion: “No one has said at all that marijuana is harmless. It is a drug and, as such, it causes damage. What is being resolved here is that total prohibition is a disproportionate measure.”

and opium, but now use them to the fund their insurgency. ISIS, which is pulling in an estimated \$10 million per month in black-market sales from the oil fields it controls in Iraq and Syria, has clearly been subsidizing its Afghan franchise, allowing it to avoid getting its hands dirty with opium.

If Afghanistan’s poppy crop has decreased as a result of desertification and the rise of ISIS, it will be the very definition of a pyrrhic victory.

Burma: Will Ceasefire End Opium War?

On October 15, Burmese President Thein Sein signed a ceasefire with eight rebel groups in a bid to bring the country’s multiple insurgencies to

an end before November’s historic elections—the first since a nominally civilian government took over in 2011 and pledged a democratic transition after decades of military dictatorship. The agreement seeks to involve rebels in the political process, ending a war that has persisted (at varying levels of intensity) since Burmese independence in 1948. But while the pact has been optimistically dubbed the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement, seven guerrilla groups involved in the combat didn’t sign on—including the largest, the United Wa State Army, with some 25,000 fighters.

Trying to put a good face on things, Thein

Sein said: “History will judge the value of the NCA not by the number of signatories, but by how the terms of the NCA are effectively implemented.” And while European and Chinese diplomats were on hand for the signing in Rangoon, Aung San Suu Kyi—leader of the National League for Democracy, which ultimately prevailed in the November elections—also skipped the ceremony.

Meanwhile, Southeast Asia’s Golden Triangle continues to catch up with Afghanistan as the world’s top opium producer, according to the latest UNODC figures. This increase is mostly fueled by the war in Burma, with ethnic armies encouraging

cultivation in the zones under their control in order to fund their insurgencies.

Garnering virtually no media coverage was the statement issued by the 3rd Myanmar Opium Farmer Forum in September, a meeting that brought together growers from throughout Burma’s north. The statement read: “We grow opium because of poverty and because we live in isolated and mountainous... areas, where it is difficult to grow other crops, infrastructure is weak, and we face difficulties to transport crops... The large majority of opium farmers are not rich and grow it for their survival. Therefore, they should not be treated as criminals.”

The statement was clear in spelling out the role of the guerrilla armies: “Many of us live in areas with armed conflict. We have to pay opium tax to many armed groups.” But it also took aim at the eradication policies encouraged by the UN: “We feel there should be no eradication of our poppy fields, until we have access to alternative sources of income. Some of us mainly rely on opium cultivation for our livelihoods.”

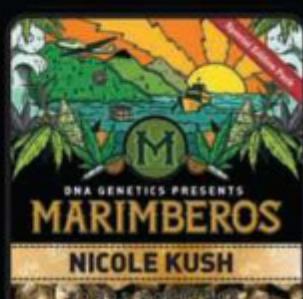
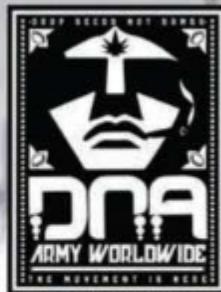
The statement called for putting eradication efforts on hold until alternative development projects for the region are in place, “designed with our involvement.”

For updates on these and other stories, see Bill Weinberg’s websites, GlobalGanjaReport.com and WorldWar4Report.com.

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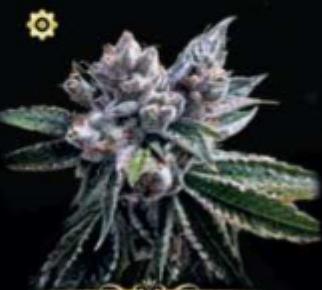


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THE ANTITHESIS OF ADDICTION

One of British journalist Johann Hari's earliest memories is of not being able to wake up an adult relative. As he grew older, Hari became increasingly aware that addiction was part of his family's reality. He began to study substance abuse and was quickly engrossed by its punitive history, starting with the nearly century-old Harrison Narcotics Tax Act. Hari tells *High Times* that seemingly unanswerable questions about the failure of the War on Drugs and the best ways to successfully treat addiction became a burning interest.

Those queries and more prompted a three-year journey that spanned 12 countries and over 300,000 miles, culminating in Hari's outstandingly comprehensive book *Chasing the Scream: The First and Last Days of the War on Drugs*. Hari's sources are as varied as humans themselves, and each one has a story to tell: a transsexual crack dealer in Brooklyn; a cartel hit man in Juarez; women serving time on a chain gang; scientists, doctors, psychologists, professors, policymakers, brutal sheriffs and corrections officers. It's an excellent and thorough investigation into the Drug War, examining how the US pushed its toxic laws on countries across the globe, and how their often-gruesome outcomes are now slowly but surely being replaced by effective approaches and treatments.

Hari's voluminous research on addiction reveals that "it isn't what we think it is," he says. "If you had asked me four years ago what causes heroin addiction, I would have looked at you like you were a bit stupid and said, 'Well, of course heroin causes heroin addiction—it's not rocket science!'



Johann Hari unpacks the fascinating history of addiction in his latest work.

"We've been told this story for 100 years... We think that if you and I and the first 20 people to read this article were all to use heroin for 20 days, on day 21 we'd all be heroin addicts, because there are chemical hooks in heroin that our bodies would physically need. It occurred to me that there was something not quite right about that picture."

You may recall the 1980s anti-drug commercials featuring lab rats that, given the choice between plain water and water laced with heroin, chose to get high till they died. Simon Fraser University psychology

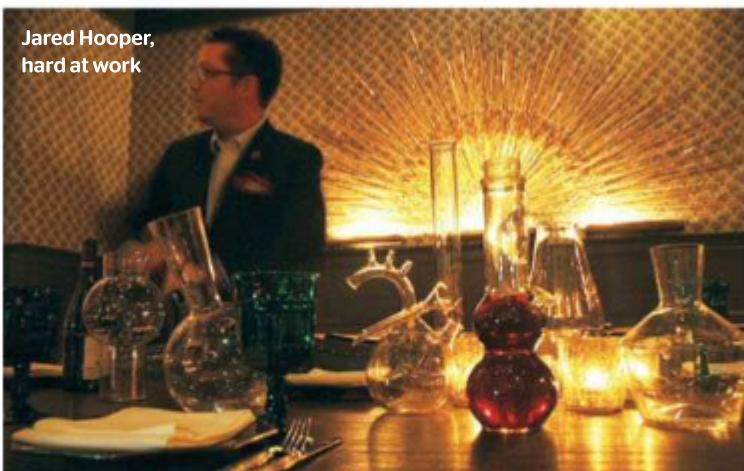
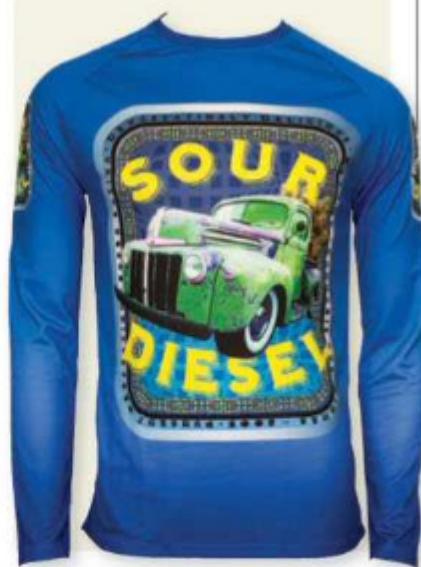
professor Bruce K. Alexander wasn't impressed with the research and conducted his own series of studies in the 1970s and '80s, dubbed the "Rat Park" experiments. Instead of isolating rats in barren cages, Alexander created an ideal environment for them: other rats to interact with, good food, bedding and toys. The choice to dope up was still there, but aside from a few occasional trippers, the rats left the drugged water alone. "You go from almost 100 percent addiction and overdose when [rats are] isolated," Hari notes, "to no addiction or overdose at all when they have good lives."

According to Hari, this proves that "the opposite of addiction is not sobriety—the opposite of addiction is connection. When we're happy and healthy, we connect with each other. But when you're isolated or traumatized or beaten down by life, you will bond and connect with something that gives you some sense of release." *Mary Ought Six chasingthescream.com*.

SPOTLIGHT

Retro Image Apparel: The High Road Collection

Fun, expressive performance wear for cannabis-loving athletes, the High Road Collection includes six vivid strain-inspired designs: Purple Haze, Sour Diesel, OG Kush, Blue Dream, Train Wreck and Strawberry Cough. Full-zip jerseys and tees are available in short- and long-sleeve versions. The shirts are vibrantly printed using dye sublimation to keep the colors bright and true, and they're crafted from high-tech moisture-wicking fabric for optimal temperature and humidity control. (They even offer 30 SPF sun protection!) As many cyclists who enjoy a puff or two after an epic ride know, cannabis can be part of a healthy, active, outdoor lifestyle—and these strain tees are a perfect fit. \$49.99 and up, retro2ride.com



Jared Hooper,
hard at work

OENOPHILES' DELIGHT

Master sommelier Jared Hooper of downtown Los Angeles hotspot Faith and Flower has seized on the rising popularity of cannabis to highlight his love of excellent wines. Struck one day by the singular beauty of a delicate decanter, Hooper was inspired to try decanting wine in another curious sort of glass—a bong. He now has an entire collection of bongs in the restaurant's immense wine cellar, and he and assistant sommelier Marla Foust delight in giving diners a shock by pouring a provocative red—such as the earthy, rich Barabba from Iuli Wines—from a gleaming glass water pipe. May we suggest pairing it with a little puff before dinner? Wine and weed go beautifully together (always in moderation, of course).

Faith and Flower, 705 West Ninth Street, Los Angeles
faithandflowerla.com

Pain & Pleasure

Wax Idols' manic transgressions. *By John Payne*

Let's face it, trying to survive in this big, bad world can get a little gnarly. What with the endless wars, environmental and natural disasters, politicians being corrupt sacks of shit, and people everywhere acting like total assholes, sometimes things just plain suck. Wax Idols guiding light Hether Fortune empathizes with our human condition, and she has two things in her back pocket keeping her relatively sane: music and cannabis.

Straight outta Detroit by way of San Francisco, Fortune's latest album, *American Tragic*, is a heavy-hitting listening experience, but for the most part it's the artfully conceived music—an atmospherically dense batch of psych-tinged aggresso-rock ("Violent Transgression" and "Seraph") mingled with peppily melodic electro-dance-pop ditties ("Lone You" and "Goodbye Baby")—that's going to grab you by the short hairs.

In creating this followup to the critically acclaimed 2013 *Discipline & Desire*, Fortune drew upon recent bad times, including going through a painful divorce, moving from the Bay Area to LA, and a newfound disturbing sense of isolation.

"I was a fuckin' mess," she recalls. "I was really depressed, had a nervous breakdown, and I was broke. I barely saw anyone—only left the house to sit at a café and write every day for a month."

Even so, Fortune—a production and sound aficionado

It's usually pretty clear what Fortune's talking about—until it isn't.



"Weed helps me with depression. When I have the right hybrid, it changes my head space."

who played all of the instruments on the album except for the drums—doesn't urge her listeners to zero in on the pithy lyrics in order to glean their full impact. For this band, the sound itself reigns supreme; plus Fortune had no intention of writing a concept album about the trials and tribulations of being human.

"I was just writing about what I was going through," she says. "There was no plan, like, 'This is a mental-health record' or anything. I think it's usually pretty clear what I'm talking about... though sometimes that isn't the case: Thematically, 'A Violent Transgression' is more about a feeling than it is about specific words I'm saying, so the

words are more of a mystery."

Not surprisingly, the album's split tonality of the highest highs and soul-shattering lows owes a lot to Fortune's rollercoaster emotions during its making.

"*Mania*, is what it is," she clarifies with a laugh. "It's me waking up one day and for a week straight being 'Fuck everyone! I'm the best! I've got everything figured out!' and then writing some real bitchy song and then crashing and writing a song that's miserable.

"I write songs in a lot of different ways, and this album was a lot of me writing on 12-string guitar," she continues. "I'll get an idea for a song from whatever instrument is around me or feels applicable to the song, whether it's guitar or bass or computer synths."

Fortune sometimes enhances her creative endeavors with a bowl of Lavender-blend weed, but she keeps that stuff away when she hits the stage to play. "It's good for writing but not good for performing, because I'm doing a lot to mentally prepare and I just want to be in that space. And though I don't always write stoned, I do sometimes. And I still like to listen to records and get stoned and zone out.

"Weed helps me with depression," Fortune adds. "When I have the right hybrid, it changes my head space. If I'm really depressed and I smoke something that's a little more on the *sativa* side, it lifts my mood and makes me feel a little more energetic. Then I'll laugh more and be like the classic goofball stoner who says, 'Oh, who cares?' and not be so maudlin about everything." *



Finding Fortune

"When I was a teenage girl and I saw women in hardcore bands up on the stage thrashing about and being crazy, it was like, 'Fuck yeah, I wanna do that!' You identify with people that you can visually find something in common with."



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"Our music is so not what you think of when you think of stoner music—but, by any measure, we are a stoner band."

"It feels really physically relaxing, and I'm able to warm up quicker when I'm playing drums," Weinstein explains. "I used to do what I call a neo-hippie speedball—a couple hits of a one-hitter and a Red Bull. That was my ideal warm-up."

Though Krallice generally reserve their weed for writing and practice and don't take it on tour with them, they're appreciative of smokable gifts from fans—usually. But Barr recalls the hefty sack of weed that a fan handed off in Montreal: "This guy gave us a big ol' bag! All of us had *long* joints, and we were just trying to get through 'em."

"It was at breakfast, when we were leaving," McMaster adds. "It wasn't even fun!"

By the time you read this, Krallice will have released a new EP, *Hyperion*, and will be shredding their way toward their next album and a possible West Coast tour. Don't look for them to repeat their Canadian experience state-side, however: "You always feel like a scumbag on tour," Weinstein confesses. "And then when you're in a straight city, on the sidewalk in the middle of a weekday, just puffing away, trying to smoke as fast as you can, you give up any illusion that you're a fucking decent human being." *

Telluric Smoke Rings

Proggy black metallers Krallice talk touring, toking and taking weed to the streets... literally! *By Polly Watson*

Variously described as "progressive" or "experimental" black metal, and always discussed as a band of virtuosos, NYC's Krallice established their mastery of extreme dissonance with their 2009 debut, *Dimensional Bleedthrough*, a compendium of seethingly complex guitar noise and unholy blast-beat drumming, complemented by hot-throated, raspy shrieks. Since then, they've released four more albums—no mean feat, given that all four members play in (or, in the case of guitarist Colin Marston, produce) multiple bands. A glance at the Wikipedia page of Marston or guitarist/vocalist Mick Barr, for example, reveals a list of credits that rivals the endnotes of a Jared Diamond tome.

Krallice's latest, *Ygg Huur* (self-released), finds them turning away from the lengthy opuses—some nearly 20 minutes long—that marked much of their previous work in favor of briefer, more sparely limned tunes. Though these songs don't have the opportunity to repeatedly build, crash like waves and recede, as their predecessors did, they evoke a sharper, more brutal wrath while still showcasing the practiced talents of their makers.

When *High Times* caught up with Krallice in Barr's living room, we wondered if the shorter song structure meant that the band had cut down on their weed intake, about which we'd heard much. Barr was reassuring: "It's always

there," he said, nodding toward a Tupperware container of edibles marked with an X in hot-pink tape to ward off hungry visitors who might not be looking to get high.

Bassist/vocalist Nick McMaster elaborates: "Our music is so *not* what you think of when you think of stoner music—but, by any measure, we *are* a stoner band."

The members of Krallice also agree that, by any measure, drummer Lev Weinstein is the band's hardest toker.



Acid... Washed

Guitarist Colin Marston first tried weed as a "gateway drug" back when he was a teen, thinking it would pave the way for his experiments with acid. Things didn't go as planned, however: "I wound up liking weed way better!"



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Smear Campaign

Industrial-noize punxx leave their mark.

NYC industrial punks L.O.T.I.O.N. deliver an atomic blast of a debut album, which opens appropriately with the sound of jet engines warming up before exploding into arrhythmic 8-bit wrath overlaid by howling, extremely distorted vocals—a harbinger of the next 22 minutes.

Conjuring such early-'80s bands as Canada's Skinny Puppy and Japan's legendary Gauze, L.O.T.I.O.N. deliver a blend of organic and cyber that's both unique and insane. The band illuminates concerns seemingly of their forebears' time—radioactive fallout, computers, the police state—that turn out to be frighteningly, and depressingly, modern. The most incredible track here is "Torture Report," with its ominous staticky synths, garbage-can-lid percussion and endlessly repeated horrifying refrain ("THEY DO THIS TO PEOPLE!"). "Fukushima Fallout" opens with a classic trope of '80s punk—the sound clip of a cultured voice speaking calmly and authoritatively on some unimaginable situation (in this case, instructing the radiation-saturated residents of

Fukushima Prefecture on how to behave in the wake of the three nuclear meltdowns that followed the tsunami there in 2011)—before lurching into screaming mayhem.

"The Machine" is the most straight-ahead hardcore tune here, a ripper that, despite its digital components, sounds like it could be off a Koro or Necros record. "Born in 1984" features the loping boom-chuck drumbeat that's been a staple of the hardcore genre since, well, 1984 (at least), but the guitar over it threshes in a rapid one-two, while the vocals are blurred by an effect that mimics running water, catapulting the whole thing out of the era of Blockbuster Video and into that of the block-chain erupter. Album closer "Goodbye Humans" balances bleeps and bloopers against an incendiary, driving chorus that likely foreshadows our not-too-distant fate: "Goodbye humans! Goodbye friends!" After I was finished listening to this record, I put on some P.M. Dawn and called my mom. *Polly Watson*



L.O.T.I.O.N.

Digital Control and Man's Obsolescence
(Toxic State)

Necros record. "Born in 1984" features the loping boom-chuck drumbeat that's been a staple of the hardcore genre since, well, 1984 (at least), but the guitar over it threshes in a rapid one-two, while the vocals are blurred by an effect that mimics running water, catapulting the whole thing out of the era of Blockbuster Video and into that of the block-chain erupter. Album closer "Goodbye Humans" balances bleeps and bloopers against an incendiary, driving chorus that likely foreshadows our not-too-distant fate: "Goodbye humans! Goodbye friends!" After I was finished listening to this record, I put on some P.M. Dawn and called my mom. *Polly Watson*

MUSIC RECOMMENDATIONS



Baroness
Purple
(Abraxan Hymns)

On their first album since the near-fatal 2012 bus accident that caused two members to leave the band and shattered vocalist/guitarist John Baizley's arm into 11 pieces, Baroness unveil a collection of supercharged rock songs that radiate defiance and triumph over anything

that could be described as self-pity. Propulsive grooves show off Baroness's excellent new rhythm section, while gleaming twin-guitar leads thrust the anthems into the stratosphere. Through it all, Baizley sings like a man with a renewed understanding of the cosmos and his place in it. *J. Bennett*



Charenee Wade
Offering: The Music of Gil Scott-Heron & Brian Jackson
(Motema)

Gil Scott-Heron combined singing and spoken word, jazz and soul, the personal and the political. His work (in collaboration with Brian Jackson) gave melodic life not just to the black American experience but to the universal human trip over the last half-century. Charenee Wade

is an effortlessly swingin' mistress of the blue note and a perfect conduit for songs of both lamentation and celebration. "Seasons may change / And feelings may change / But music remains," she sings in the title track, evoking the timelessness of these compositions. *Michael Simmons*

BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS

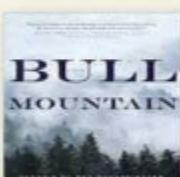


Hunger Makes Me a Modern Girl
Carrie Brownstein

(Riverhead Books)

Carrie Brownstein is that rare artist who shines in multiple mediums. As co-creator of the comedy series *Portlandia*, she brilliantly sends up hipster culture. She's a fine writer in print, too. This revealing memoir focuses on the insecurities and strivings of youth as she and her Sleater-Kinney

bandmates rise to become one of the 1990s' leading indie-punk bands. There's not much rock'n'roll debauchery here, but plenty of neurosis, including anxiety and sexual confusion—all of which makes her story stand out as a most valuable addition to the rock-memoir canon. *Kirsten Ferguson*



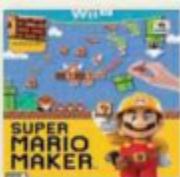
Bull Mountain
Brian Panowich

(G.P. Putnam's Sons)

Brian Panowich's debut novel focuses on the way that the past continues to haunt the present. For nearly 60 years, the Burroughs family has run moonshine, weed and meth in Northern Georgia. Protagonist Clayton Burroughs is the sheriff of a small community; when an ATF

agent shows up investigating a shipment of guns, Burroughs is forced to reckon with his family's past. *Bull Mountain* is a great read, a convincing depiction of a family business that runs contrary to the laws of the land, and a brutal portrayal of hardscrabble life in rural Georgia. *Ben Hall*

GAMES RECOMMENDATIONS

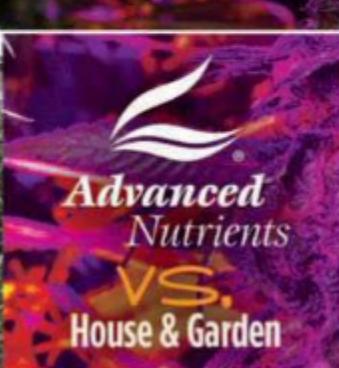
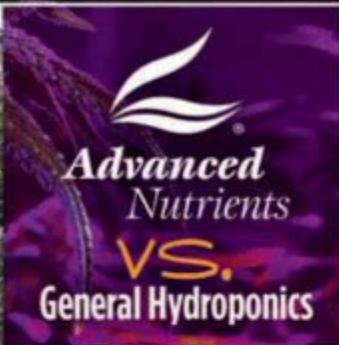


Super Mario Maker
Wii U
(Nintendo)

Does growing up clutching a little gray brick of a controller amid the clanging of coins and the blasting of boings in lo-fi sound romantically familiar? *Super Mario Maker* is a window into the collective gamer consciousness, allowing the creation and sharing of one's own 2D platformer-level design with

ease, and worth looking into for anyone who has missed spending time with a particular pixelated plumber. One of the best community-based games around allows endless content, from lessons of skill to Rube Goldberg-esque contraptions. There couldn't be a better time to jump back in. *Tyler Merfeld*

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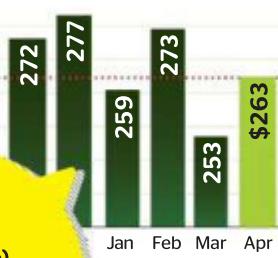
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Prices by the ounce

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US Price Index
YTD Average: \$300**Kind Index**
YTD Average: \$373**Mids Index**
YTD Average: \$263**Schwag Index**
YTD Average: \$115

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-Ann Arbor, MI

TRANS HIGH MARKET QUOTATIONS

STATE	CITY	STRAIN	PRICE
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Arizona	Phoenix	Blue Dream	250
Arkansas	El Dorado	Purple Trainwreck	320
California	Los Angeles	Ghost Train Haze	260
Colorado	Denver	Deadhead OG	230
Connecticut	Hartford	Girl Scout Cookies	380
Delaware	Newark	Blue Dream	350
Florida	Miami	Super Silver Haze	360
Georgia	Atlanta	Purple Haze	350
Hawaii	Maui	Tahoe OG	350
Illinois	Chicago	Critical+	380
Indiana	Indianapolis	Master Kush	375
Louisiana	New Orleans	Skywalker OG	400
Maine	Bangor	Headband	330
Maryland	Bethesda	Sweet Tooth	350
Massachusetts	Boston	Super Silver Haze	350
Michigan	Ann Arbor	Gorilla Glue	220
Minnesota	Minneapolis	Strawberry Cough	360
Missouri	Springfield	East Coast Sour Diesel	320
Montana	Helena	Banana Kush	250
New Jersey	Jersey City	Bubba Kush	400
New York	Brooklyn Rochester	Three Kings Sour Diesel	360 190
North Carolina	Asheville Raleigh	Headband Chemdog	320 385
Ohio	Columbus	OG Kush	350
Oregon	Portland	Jilly Bean	180
Pennsylvania	Philadelphia	Bubblegum	375
Tennessee	Memphis	Silver Haze	380
Texas	Austin	Death Star	350
Utah	Salt Lake City	Northern Lights	360
Vermont	Burlington	Lowryder	280
Virginia	Arlington Richmond	Sour Diesel Guava Chem	325 375
Washington	Seattle	Juicy Fruit	160
INTERNATIONAL			
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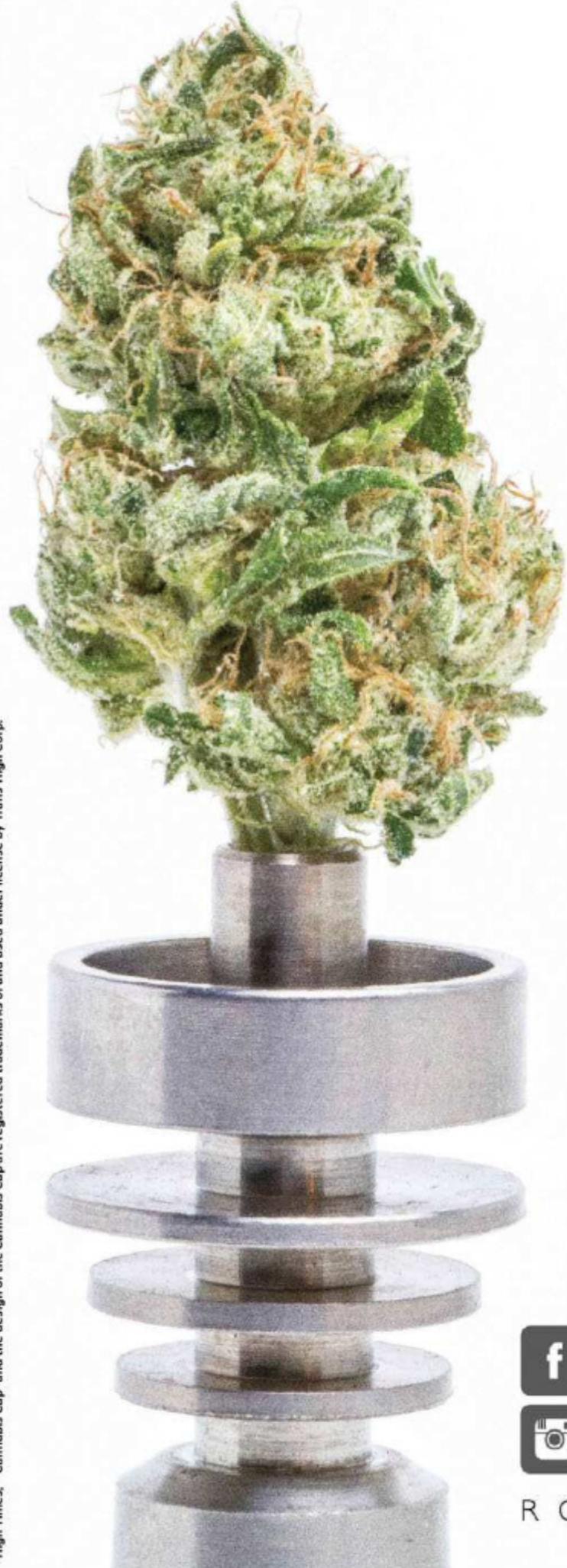
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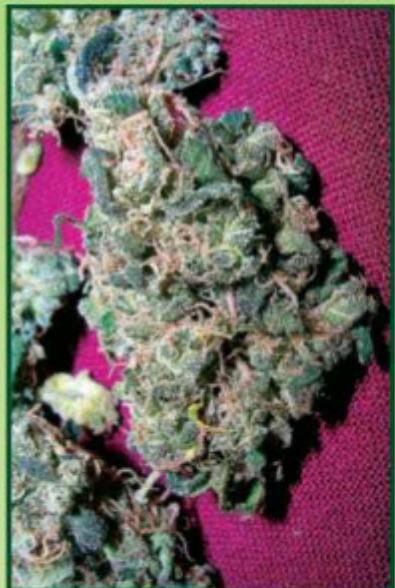
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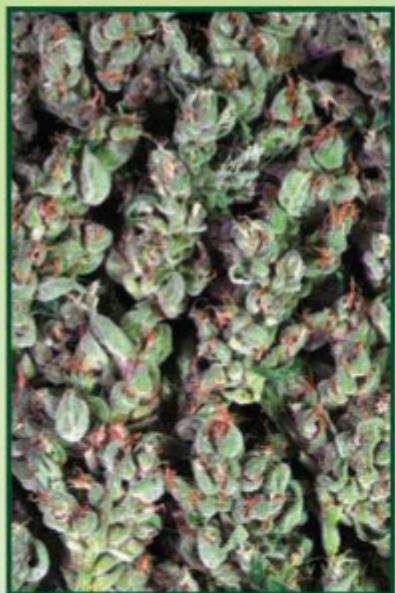
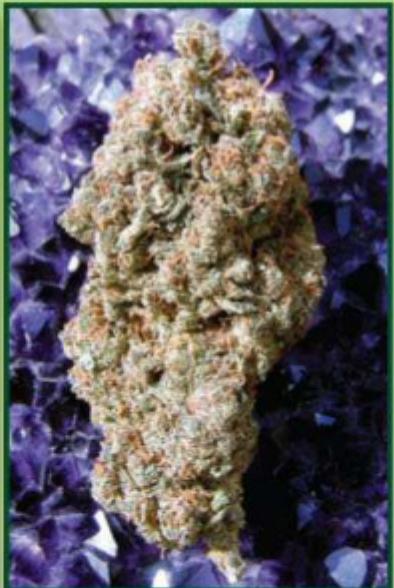
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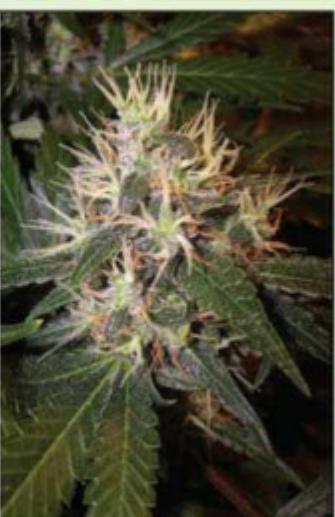
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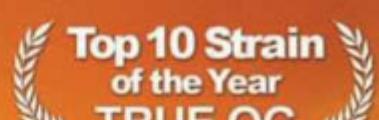
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PEACE, LOVE AND GANJA

After 27 Cups in wintry Amsterdam, HIGH TIMES ditched the cold and took the 2015 World Cannabis Cup somewhere a bit warmer, planting new seeds in a pot paradise—Jamaica!

By Emily Cegielski



The Rastafarian community conducted opening ceremonies on day one.



Empress Esther carried a simple message in her basket.

Rum punch... lots of rum punch. And maybe a Red Stripe. All in the airport lounge before I ever stepped outside into the island sun. That's pretty much all I remember from my first day in Jamaica.

I definitely begged the bus driver, who was carting us from the airport an hour and a half south to Negril, to make a quick pit stop. Somehow, my urgent bathroom break resulted in a fresh round of rum punches. I was sloshed on the bus and had yet to lay eyes on any ganja, but that was about to change—fast.

Cannabis. Marijuana. Weed. Pot. Ganja. Whatever you call it, it still gets you stoned. And Jamaica, a country synonymous with marijuana culture, seems like an obvious place to hold a Cannabis Cup—but getting there wasn't easy.

Nearly 40 years after Bob Marley first appeared on the cover of *High Times* holding a massive amount of illegal herb, Jamaica finally passed drug-law reforms last February—recognizing the rights of the Rastafari community to use pot as a sacrament and decriminalizing the possession of small amounts—that helped pave the way for our inaugural event in the country.

Yet even with the new laws, the Jamaican government made it clear that permission to hold a Cannabis Cup would

be contingent on a partnership with the Rastafarian community. An exemption permit (protecting all in attendance from prosecution for ganja) would only be granted to events organized “for the purpose of the celebration or observance of the Rastafarian faith.”

For High Times, that meant a lot of reasoning—specifically, a lot of reasoning sessions with the organizers of the Rastafari Rootzfest, who agreed to host the Cannabis Cup in conjunction with their own educational and spiritual event, which celebrates Rastafari culture and livity.

“It’s very important to understand that the exemption that has been given to this event is because it is a Rastafari event,” said Jamaican Minister of Justice Mark Golding, who granted the first-ever exemption permit to Rootzfest, speaking at the Cannabis Cup’s opening ceremony. “And so all of us who are here—whether Rasta or not Rasta—all of us are here to share and learn and enjoy the culture of this movement, which came out of this country.”

To say I learned a lot would be an understatement. In fact, I was thrown headfirst into a deep well of Jamaican culture and Rastafari ideas, only to emerge so drenched in knowledge that I was left dripping wet, shaking and more than a bit uncomfortable, at least at first.

To be fair, growing up in the Bible

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Belt can really fuck up the way you view religions. Plus I was pretty darn high throughout the entire event. So while my observations might not exactly be objective, they're authentic nonetheless.

The global celebration of ganja was held on Negril's famous Seven Mile Beach. On one side of the event space, vendor booths were spread out across a giant soccer field leading to the incredibly gorgeous white-sand beach and turquoise ocean. The other side consisted of a shaded promenade known as Rasta Village, an area set up by the Rootzfest organizers.

As a designated Rastafari religious event, the whole affair was alcohol-free (no more rum punch for me!) and Ital, which basically meant that all of the food onsite was vegan, but like actually healthy vegan (i.e., no French fries). As someone who has been known to eat Twix bars

Jamaica's rich history is steeped in *sativa*; the country's sun-drenched climate and latitude have allowed many landrace strains to grow

for breakfast and considers pretty much everything other than beef a vegetable (chicken and fish are close on the food pyramid to lettuce... *right?*), I was hesitant to plunge fork-first into an Ital dish.

But the munchies quickly wore me down, and I queued up for a taste of Debz Non-Dairy Ice Cream. Let's just say its creamy deliciousness and fresh flavor changed my life: I had pineapple-coconut for breakfast and rum-raisin for dinner.

Plus I have to admit that once I began branching out to the other food stands, I ended up being even more impressed—I had no idea that tofu, lentils and tempeh could be so tasty. Sure, I was stoned, but the food was beyond solid. That doesn't mean I said no when *HT* cultivation editor at large Nico Escondido offered me a contraband fast-food burger, but I did learn that I will eat (and love) anything smothered in Scotch bonnet pepper sauce.

They say that when it rains, it pours—and that's nowhere truer than in Jamaica. Just when you think that suffocation from the island's 90°F heat and 80 percent humidity is imminent, the heavens open, releasing a torrential downpour that might let up just as quickly as it started or could continue for hours on end.

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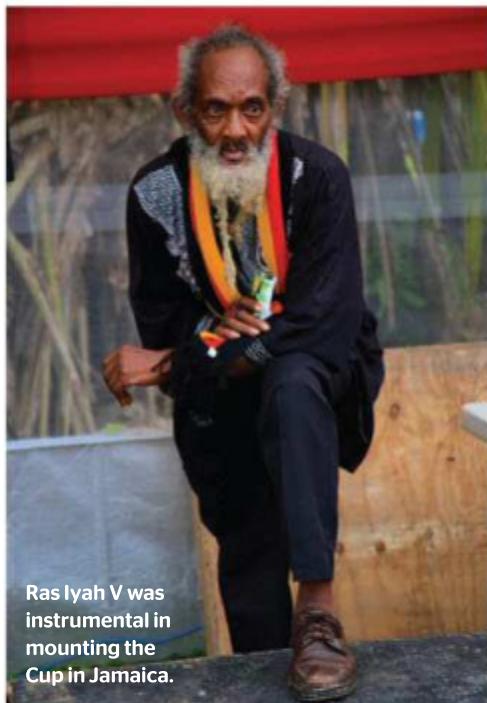
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VIPER COOKIES

We travelled to Jamaica during the country's rainy season, and boy, did it pour! But we were lucky. Yes, our first day was wet, and on our last day the entire event space flooded, but Friday and Saturday were picturesque, with beautiful clear blue skies, beaming rays of sun and the occasional breeze coming off the ocean. It's the kind of weather that simply doesn't exist in Amsterdam (home to HT's previous 27 international Cannabis Cups) in November. I ended up returning to New York with a tan.

By any measure, escaping to a tropical island to work a cannabis-centric event sounds like a dream come true. But it was indeed work, and there were plenty of difficult conditions to contend with—from spotty Wi-Fi (just *thinking* about uploading photos would render the connection useless) to spiders lurking in the grass



Ras Iyah V was instrumental in mounting the Cup in Jamaica.



Breaking down the dense ganja for spliffs was an exercise in patience.

(I'm arachnophobic and may or may not have cried in front of my co-workers after spotting a particularly large one).

However, technical obstacles and spiders aside, the reason we were in Jamaica was for the ganja—and the ganja didn't disappoint. It was literally everywhere. Vendor tables were overflowing with trays of herb. Attendees pulled massive amounts of bud out of their backpacks. Almost everyone around me was toking on a joint. It was a beautiful sight.

Jamaica's rich history is steeped in *sativa*; the country's sun-drenched climate and latitude have allowed many landrace strains to grow there for generations. Yes, hybridization is rampant, in Jamaica just like everywhere else, but we did find a few pure strains among the entries. No, the genetics and technology



Charlo Greene, the infamous Alaskan reporter, made the scene.

WHO ARE THE RASTAFARI?

The Rastafari movement emerged out of Jamaica in the 1930s, following the coronation of Ethiopian Emperor Haile Selassie I in 1930. Conceiving Selassie as the second coming of God, the Rastafari theology developed from the beliefs and writings of political activist Marcus Garvey, who predicted the rise of a black king who would bring his people to the Promised Land, believed to be Ethiopia by the followers of the Rastafari religion. The global success of Bob Marley and his music in the 1970s helped spread the religion around the world.

At the core of the Rastafari belief system is a reinterpretation of the Hebrew Bible, with many of its tenets based in Judaism and Christianity. Rastas believe in the existence of a triune God, or Jah, who came to Earth as the divine Haile Selassie I, said to be a direct descendant of King Solomon and the Queen of Sheba.

The Rastafari movement seeks to promote a lifestyle of peace. Many associate Rastas with nothing more than dreadlocks and marijuana—and while both are important to the Rastafari philosophy, it encompasses so much more. A primary goal of the Rastafari faith is to expand the believer's livity, which is the Rasta concept of a righteous, love-filled life—the realization that Jah dwells within all living things. Maintaining awareness and enhancing livity can be accomplished through prayer and meditation, often complemented with the sacramental use of cannabis. Their beliefs regarding food, hair and nature all stem from biblical texts.

While a basic principle of the Rastafari faith is that one's body is the true temple of God, places of worship have been created as well. There are three main "mansions" (sects or orders) in the religion: the Nyahbinghi Order, Bobo Ashanti and the Twelve Tribes of Israel. All adhere to the same basic principles and differ mainly in the importance each attaches to different biblical values.

Today, the Rastafari religion has approximately 1 million adherents worldwide, and its greatest concerns are mostly political—focusing on the repatriation of black people to Africa and the reinstatement of their rightful place in society. Marijuana is used to increase spiritual awareness. Dreadlocks represent the mane of a lion, the symbol of the Rastafari, which also symbolizes Haile Selassie I. Due to a lack of the kind of structure seen in most Western religions, the Rastafari faith is often misunderstood, but that's because it's not just a religion. Rastafari is a social movement, a mindset and a way of life.



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were not on par with those found in California or Colorado—but that doesn't mean that Jamaican weed is dirt.

On the contrary, most of the ganja that has been properly dried and cured will give you all kinds of warm and fuzzy feels. I believe it was *HT* senior grow editor Danny Danko who described it as "giggly electricity"—a phrase that can really be used to describe the entire Cup. A celebration of peace, love, unity and ganja. Different cultures joining together to live, learn and grow.

For example, on the first day of the event (at exactly 4:20 p.m., of course), legendary cultivator and *HT* alum Kyle Kushman married his longtime love Susie in the seminar tent in front of Cup attendees, loved ones, Rasta elders, *High Times* staff and others. Friends and strangers came together to mark the joyous occasion. When Susie presented her gorgeous bouquet, appropriately accented with sprigs of ganja, to Rasta elder Mama Fyah of the Nyahbinghi Order, it seemed as though universal harmony had finally arrived.

I stood onstage watching the audience from behind my laptop during the Cannabis Cup awards show three days later and felt that same profound sense of accord. An immense crowd had braved hours of stormy weather to enjoy the evening ceremony.



Kyle Kushman married his bride Susie on opening day.



Miss HT Dani Green Fox and Miss HT 2013 Yvette Ramirez (left) with pals.



Superstar wrestler Rob Van Dam attracted fellow cannabis fans.

SUPERCLOSET

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The rain was gone, having wiped away the day's unbearable heat, and night had fallen. Winner after winner came to the stage to accept their Cannabis Cup prizes and thank their moms (or whoever)—but I found myself enthralled by the audience in front of me.

I saw Rastas laughing with Americans; Europeans and Jamaicans cheering in unison; a well-known industry professional lighting up with a girl who'd told me earlier that she "barely tokes." People from all walks of life were huddled together on a dark, wet beach to cheer on the success of others they probably didn't know.

Ras Iyah V—the Rootfest chairman, leader of the Rastafari in Unity organization, and head of the Westmoreland Hemp and Ganja Farmers Association—took to the stage to make the night's final speech. The Nyahbinghi House Drummers, who chanted, sang, danced and drummed to the delight of the crowd, soon joined him. As I started to make my way off the stage, Ras Iyah V stopped me. I had seen him around all weekend but never had the chance to introduce myself. Before I could open my mouth, he took my hands in his, looked me deep in the eyes and smiled. Neither of us said a word.

Peace. Love. Unity. Ganja.

Sure, it may sound like a cheesy rom-com starring Matthew McConaughey and Amy Schumer (Miley Cyrus makes a must-see cameo), but for four days it was absolutely real. *

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2nd Place - Tropicana, by Cannabiotix
3rd Place - Ultra Jack, by New Amsterdam Naturals with Pearl Pharma

Best Indica Flower

1st Place - White Walker OG, by Cannabiotix
2nd Place - Tuna Kush, by Cali Kush Farms with Reeferman Genetics
3rd Place - True OG, by Loud Pack with Little Dude Farms

Best Hybrid Flower

1st Place - Gorilla Glue #4, by Life Is Good
2nd Place - Trump's Hair Glue #4, by New Amsterdam Naturals
3rd Place - Strawberry Banana Sherbet, by Crockett Family Farms

Best Sativa Concentrate

1st Place - Sunkist Live Resin, by Gold Coast Extracts with Cannabiotix
2nd Place - Lemon Skunk, by Loud Pack Extracts Oregon with Moxie Genetics
3rd Place - Tangie, by Greenwolf Oregon and Moxie 710

Best Indica Concentrate

1st Place - AHHS Brand OG, by Alternative Herbal Health Services (AHHS) Brand OG
2nd Place - Emperor OG Kush, by Cali Kush Farm Genetics with the Kinder Center, Van Nuys, CA
3rd Place - Hell's Fire Live Resin, by Crockett Family Farms

Best Hybrid Concentrate

1st Place - Agent Orange, by Vader Extracts with Empire Genetics
2nd Place - Strawberry Banana Shatter (Mass Genetics Cut), by BoonDock Alchemists and Mass Genetics
3rd Place - Kong Stomper Live Resin, by the Green Solution

Best Non-Solvent Hash

1st Place - Strawberry Banana Hand-Pressed Rosin, by BoonDock Alchemists and Mass Genetics
2nd Place - Larry's OG, by the Vault Genetics
3rd Place - Cookies & Cream Cuban-Tech Dry Sift, by the Cuban Hash Queen with Exotic Genetix

Best Edible

1st Place - 180 mg Cherries & Cream Chocolate Bar, by Bhang
2nd Place - Raspberry Macaroons, by Utopia Farms
3rd Place - Altai Sea-Salt Caramel Bonbons 25 mg Sativa, by Indus Holding Co.

Best Topical

1st Place - The Holy Anointing Oil, by Om Edibles All-Female Collective
2nd Place - 200 mg CBD Organic Healing Cream, by Hibiscus Topicals
3rd Place - Honey Pot Bear Balanced Balm, by Honey Pot with Pure Joy Collective

Best CBD Flowers

1st Place - CBD OG, by CRAFT
2nd Place - Tora Bora, by the Vault Genetics

Best CBD Concentrate

1st Place - Rubi Mass CBD Shatter, by the Green Solution

2nd Place - Mindblowing CBD, by Mind Body & Soul Healing Center with Mindblowing Shatter
3rd Place - Meta Haze Concentrate, by Om Grown Female Collective and Gold Drop

Best CBD Edible

1st Place - CBD Cinnamon Maple Tree Hugger, by Om Edibles All-Female Collective with Gold Drop
2nd Place - CBD Tincture, by Earth Research Labs
3rd Place - CBD Charger, by the Green Solution

2015 JAMAICAN CANNABIS CUP WINNERS

Best Indica Flower

1st Place - APM, by Junior Gordon
2nd Place - Hawaiian Kush, by Ziggy of Orange Hill, Westmoreland
3rd Place - Milly Strain, by St. Bess Ganja Growers and Noel Watson

Best Sativa Flower

1st Place - Orange Hill Lemon, by Juna Johnson of Orange Hill, Westmoreland
2nd Place - Skunk Ice, by St. Bess Ganja Growers and Devin Goss of St. Elizabeth
3rd Place - Cole #2, by St. Ann Botanical & Agro Processing Co-op

Best Hash

1st Place - Pineapple Blueberry Ice Hash, by Junior Gordon
2nd Place - Jamaican Hash, by the Accompong Maroons

Best New-Style Farming

1st Place - True OG, by Skinny and Andrew Williams from Elemental Seeds
2nd Place - Legend, by Machel A. Emanuel from Archie Genetics
3rd Place - White Tangerine Haze, by SunSpice, Igadi Global Ja, Louis Chase and Maurice Ellis

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2nd Place - Ital Vapor Steam Chalice, by Ital Steam Chalice
3rd Place - Phunkey Feel Tips, by B-Real and AHHS WEHO

Best Booth

1st Place - Ital Seeds
2nd Place - Alternative Herbal Health Services (AHHS)
3rd Place - Fresh Headies

Best Glass

1st Place - Phunkey Feel Tips, by B-Real and AHHS WEHO
2nd Place - Apollo Glass Company, by Royal Oil Colorado
3rd Place - Taurus Mothership Glass with @Koreyglass custom drop-down, by Fresh Headies

Best Vaporizer

1st Place - Vegan Buddha, by New Amsterdam Naturals
2nd Place - OG Pen, by Moxie
3rd Place - Atmos Jump Vaporizer, by Atmos Nation

People's Choice

1st Place - OG, by Ital Seeds and Phenofinder Seeds
2nd Place - Pineapple Kush, by Mighty Jamaica
3rd Place (tie) - White Ice x Purple Kush, by Rastafari Ital Growers; Lamb's Breath, by Old School Breeders Association

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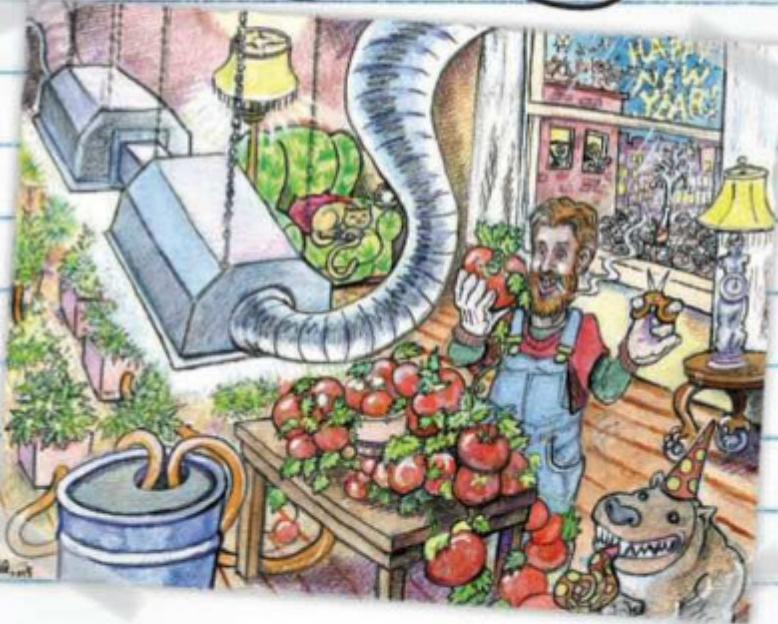
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In a journey through the Jamaican countryside, *High Times* actualized the dream of which Peter Tosh sang: "There be no more need to smoke and hide / When you know you're takin' a legal ride / Legalize marijuana / Down here in Jamaica." Story by Rick Cusick, photos by Dan Skye

It took a year and a half to step into the car.

When it was first suggested that it might be possible for the Rastafari to host the *High Times* Jamaican Cannabis Cup in Negril, the idea seemed patently absurd. But through some combination of faith and fortune, the notion prevailed. In truth, however, *real* Jamaican ganja was a vast unknown. It needed to be collected and evaluated by hard-earned Cannabis Cup standards.

A common misconception exists that Jamaican weed is shit. Not true. The stringy, scraggly, anemic stalk hawked on crowded beaches in the resort towns is, in fact, a *sativa*-dominant hybrid. It produces a legendary light-headed, giggling high. It's both fun and functional, quite unlike Chem Dog or Girl Scout Cookies. But this type of ganja isn't the only kind you'll find there. The properties of Jamaican weed depend largely on where it was grown as much as how and by whom. Jamaica's elevation can rise from sea level to 8,000 feet in the span of a few miles. High or low, wet or dry, the mysteries of Jamaican cannabis have never been thoroughly explored, creating the perfect conditions for a Cannabis

Cup competition. All that was required now was for someone to run around the island and collect all of that weed. Me.

So, 18 months following the first thought of a Jamaican Cannabis Cup, I climbed into a 2009 Toyota Ipsum seven-seat rental with five other brave men. Jamaican Justice Minister Mark Golding had granted a legal exemption allowing the Rastas to possess and transport up to 10 pounds of ganja for the sole purpose of entering the Cup competition. My companions were First Man, 34, a well-respected Rastafarian with a wide smile and a good heart. Triston Thompson, also 34, is the business manager for Rastafari Rootzfest, the signature event that would host the Cannabis Cup in Negril. Mike Shea, 60, a longtime friend, is an American expat who owns Little Bay Cabins, not far from Negril; he was a trusted advisor and translator on this journey. Finally, there was S.D.—not even his real initials (S.D. stands for "Security Detail"). An active member of the Jamaican military, the anonymous S.D. served as our driver and escort.

He laid down the ground rules as we piled into the Ipsum:

The Jamaican sun
nurtures the nugs of
tomorrow.



"If anything happens, do just as I say. No more, no less."

First Man was ecstatic. "We are making history!" he declared.

Which was another way of saying we'd be making the first legal drug run in modern-day Jamaica. In all, we'd make seven stops, collecting a total of 48 definitive entries—and a shitload of ancillary bud besides. Most of the time, we'd travel the so-called A-roads, paved, passable and beautiful beyond belief. But necessary detours would require traversing the provincial dirt roads, potholed and hellish, but more beautiful by far.

We caught the southern seacoast road called A2 on the outer edges of Negril and passed quickly through Little London and Savannah-la-Mar, along the coastal rim to the small town of Bluefields. As we drove, Triston pointed out a modest tricolored wooden gate leading to a small roadside attraction: "That's where Peter Tosh is buried."

Tosh is interred along the sea where he grew up with his Bible, his guitar and his warrior's heart. He's laid to rest in an elegant tomb, flanked by ganja growing just about everywhere. His music, played constantly, is carried on the breeze.

It was a sign—a good sign. "Let's smoke a joint," I suggested.

Mike started rolling.

For 30 miles, we rambled through a few foothill villages before the road took a sharp northern turn at the mouth of the Black River. More tiny towns appeared

and fell away. The highway turned east, and we rolled through a six-mile stretch of tightly arched bamboo that quivered some 30 feet above the canopied road.

Our first stop was Santa Cruz (pop. 8,217), a bauxite-industry town lately gone to seed. We were an hour late, but in the small second-floor office perched above a sleepy convenience store, more than a dozen ganja growers waited patiently, led by the irrepressible Kathie Lennon, president and de facto queen of the St. Bess Growers.

While a crowd assembled in the little concrete room, others milled around outside on a wide patio. Mike and First Man remained outdoors talking to the locals. Triston and I began the formalities, while the unsmiling S.D. hung back in the corner, keeping a watchful eye. Kathy gave a short speech and introduced me. I thanked the entrants for waiting and told them what I sincerely believe: "For generations, the US has exported its war against ganja, and you folks have paid dearly. Right here, right now, in this room, we begin the export of our ganja-law reform as well, and you folks will reap the benefits."

I smiled conspiratorially: "It's payback time, my friends!"

With those words and a round of applause, the 2015 *High Times* Jamaican Cannabis Cup competition got underway.

I asked the growers a little bit about their entries. Their gardeners' pride was evident; I may as well have been asking about their children. There were plenty



Mark Golding

LEGAL GANJA

A Conversation with Minister of Justice Mark Golding

You were instrumental in pushing through the recognition of the Rastafarian sacramental rights relating to ganja.

They were very much a fringe sect among grass roots people, a dispossessed people, and they have been oppressed over the course of their existence. There have been several incidents of violence at the hands of the state. This reform ensures that their sacramental rights are protected by legislation. It is the first time that the Rastafarian community has been acknowledged in any way, in any public statute.

In addition to the recognition of Rastafarian rights, you've also vacated all of the low level convictions for ganja.

Yes. Thousands of people in the past have been convicted for offenses relating to personal use, leading to a criminal record. In the 1960s into the early 1970s, possession of even the smallest quantity of ganja carried a mandatory minimum 18-month sentence. Many youngsters and others have had convictions for ganja. Because of the widespread use of ganja in Jamaica, it has been very common for people to run afoul of the law. In October 2014, we amended our criminal records legislation to provide for automatic expungement of records for past convictions for possession or smoking of personal use quantities. And going forward, anybody who happens to run afoul of the law for small quantities will not get a criminal record. We've decriminalized small quantities for personal use. It's no longer an arrestable offense, which has also eliminated a major source of conflict between the youth and police, which had made community policing harder. So we have taken that away, made it a ticketable infraction, where you get a ticket for \$500 Jamaican, which is \$4 US and no criminal record.

Does that apply to tourists as well?

Yes. In fact, if you're a medical marijuana patient in any other country and you have your card, on arriving in Jamaica the law provides for you signing a declaration that you're a medical marijuana patient. If you don't have your card you can still self-declare and purchase a permit here, which will enable you to be treated as a medical marijuana patient here, and you would not be subject to any kind of penalty for having up to two ounces of ganja with you.

Read the full interview with Minister Golding at hightimes.com.

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of the long-stemmed, scraggly buds we've come to expect, but there were some curveball entries, too. More *indicas* than *sativas* were entered, which was a surprise. A cautious soul, Mr. Farmer #2, entered his Moonshine Purple Skunk, and an equally reticent Mr. Farmer #4 entered his Glace Pine Kush. Kathie handed me her Kat's Mix and gave me a big hug as well.

After two hours in Santa Cruz, we were fat with entries and back on the road. We arrived in Mandeville, which has a busy town square, a parish church and a clock tower surrounded by impressive early-19th-century houses. Despite these charming details, it's another bauxite community. Here, we met up with just one guy at a gas station smack-dab downtown, waiting for us in the pouring rain. He entered a *sativa*, far too light in weight for the competition. I took it anyway and thanked him kindly; to do otherwise would break his heart.

The rain stopped and the sun poured down instead. We took the long, sloping road to Kingston, performing another short intake just outside of town. One guy, one entry. That was the end of the first day.

Day two in Kingston began in the small suburban law office of a Rastafari attorney named Marcus Goff. Over the course of four hours, a handful of entrants filtered

in and out with multiple entries of boutique bud that had obviously crossed paths with foreign genetics. This is not unusual: Foreigners and Jamaicans alike have been smuggling quality seeds into the country for years. But I lamented to Mike that the Original Ganja—the Jamaican OG, a legend of my youth—was likely gone forever, replaced by hybrids of multiple strains: some grown in the Caribbean sun, but just as often cultivated in controlled indoor environments. So the vibe was different at the Kingston intake. To wit, one competitor showed up with a sidearm strapped to his leg.

We left Kingston and picked up A1, the northern road at the mouth of the Rio Cobre River. About seven miles north of Spanish Town, we approached Bog Walk Gorge, a long limestone canyon carved out by the Rio Cobre. The gorge is narrow, and the river is usually lazy as it rolls slowly alongside the canyon road. But as we dropped down into the gorge and crossed over the river on an 18th-century stone bridge, a thundering downpour caused the Cobre to rise and run wild. The gorge dammed up quickly, and floodwaters surged onto the winding road. But S.D. was fearless at the wheel. He pushed through the flooded road, trying not to let the car hydroplane.

Further north, somewhere past Moneague, I called my 18-year-old daughter back in the States to check in. She didn't pick up. Not unusual. I started texting her: *Hey, answer your phone—*

Suddenly Mike, next to me, muttered, "Uh-oh."

"What?"

"We're getting pulled over."

We slowed to a crawl, then came to a full stop.

A uniformed officer walked slowly to the car. In the back seats, black plastic shopping bags were bursting with ganja. In the back pocket of the front seat, a freezer bag filled with head stash and a pack of Rizla rolling papers were in clear view.

I hissed, "Triston, take care of this!"

The cop was at the window. "Do you have anything to declare?" he asked.

"Drugs and guns and all of that," S.D. replied calmly.

"What?" The cop couldn't believe what he'd just heard.

"Drugs and guns," S.D. repeated.

"Not drugs!" Triston and Mike said in unison.

"No... ganja," Triston added.

"Yeah—ganja!" Mike agreed.

I looked down at my half-finished text.

"Pull over to the side," the cop said.

From the back seat, I saw Triston's face

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in the rear-view mirror. He was smiling inscrutably, as cool as a westerly wind. Next to me, Mike was grinning from ear to ear. Everyone seemed to be enjoying themselves, but I was less sanguine.

I continued the text: *Daddy loves you!!* The cop asked S.D. to explain himself.

"I'm in the military," he said smoothly, handing the officer his Jamaica Defense Force ID. "We have ganja, and I'm carrying a sidearm. These guys are picking up ganja for the event in Negril, and I'm escorting them. We have letters of permission from the justice minister with us."

The officer peered into the car and looked at the heaps of weed that we'd made no effort to conceal.

I was still texting: *Always been very proud of you...* My plan was to hit "send" the moment I was ordered to get out of the car. But the officer returned the ID to S.D. without asking to see our letters of permission. Instead, he stepped back, smiled and said, "Proceed."

S.D. put the car in gear, and we scuttled back onto the road.

"That's it?" I blurted in wonder.

"That's it," S.D. exhaled.

Looking back, it seems that the justice minister must have informed the police of what was happening—why else would the cop let us go so quickly? The whole thing

was over as soon as it began.

"Surreal," I said aloud. "Fucking surreal!"

Triston announced that we'd be taking a detour. "We have to pick up some weed."

"I thought that's what we've been doing?"

"No. We have to go pick up some ganja for the Rastas, so they have something to sell at the event."

"Where are we doing that?"

"Up in the mountains."

"Okay. How much weed?"

"A few pounds—maybe more. This guy lives way up in the hills, in a place called Murray Mountain."

"Is he giving us an entry, too?"

"Maybe ... I'm not sure," Triston said.

"It's a very small place, and this guy doesn't come out that often. He's been growing ganja for a very long time."

Murray Mountain, I found out later, is an infamous outlaw enclave of growers, a farming village in the Dry Harbour Mountains. The village is 2,200 feet above sea level, very cool and relatively dry, which accounts for the superior weed grown here.

"Herbert grows the Long Time Weed," Triston added.

"The what?"

"He been growing the same weed on his little farm since the 1970s. It's called Long Time Weed."

My ears perked up. "Really?"

"Yeah." Triston wanted Mike and me to try the Long Time Weed and tell Herbert if it was good enough to sell.

"My pleasure," I promised. To Mike, I pondered: "Maybe that's it—maybe this is the legend from our youth that I thought was gone."

We turned off the highway and took a service road over the Iron Mountains and then barreled onto a dilapidated network of parochial dirt roads and intersecting trails—the beginning of a long, rough ride. Of course, I didn't know that at the time, having been seduced by the severe beauty of the interior.

We drove from village to village through the rolling hills, passing through Nine Miles, where Bob Marley grew up and is buried. Whereas Peter Tosh's resting place is undisturbed by anything but the sea breeze, Bob's Nine Miles was a sudden infusion/intrusion of hustlers, touts and frenzied vampires who seemed to want to eat us alive. Dozens shouted at the car to slow down, barking "Smoke! Smoke!" and "Bob! Bob!" When it became clear that we weren't going to stop, the shouts turned quickly to "Fook you!" and "Bumba klaat!" A fast ride through Nine Miles only made me want to leave there ASAP.

The ride got rougher. S.D. pushed the rental car to its limits, trying to negotiate



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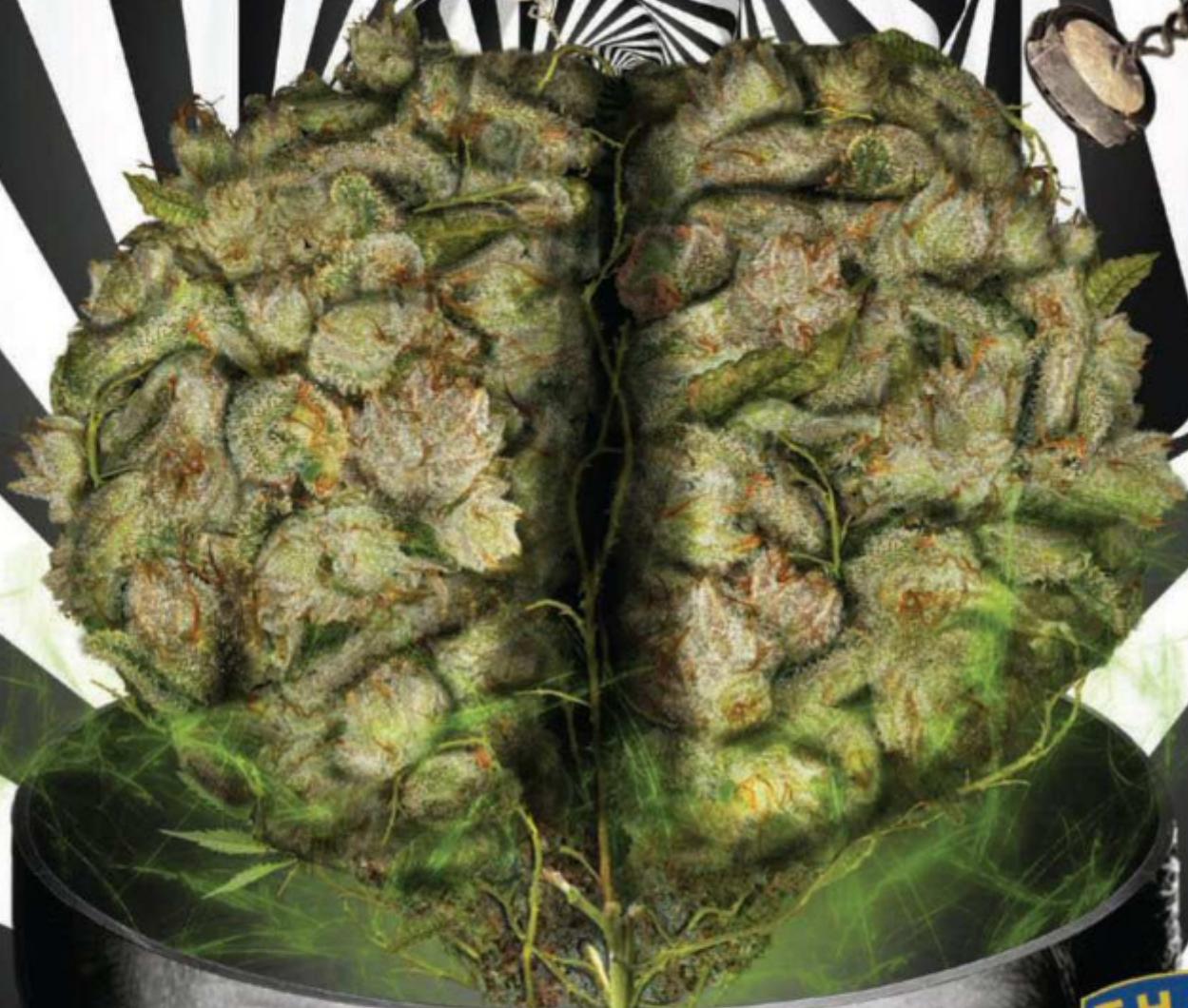
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the constant pitching and backbreaking bumps, the sudden swerves, cratered potholes, rude turns and indifferent animals—one unknown mountain pass after another. What had been exhilarating became tedious. A journey that should have taken 45 minutes spanned hours. Fog covered the faraway hills, and wisps of mist spiraled from nearby ravines. We passed groves of palms, bamboo, mango, coco and ackee, often inching by herds of fat-bellied goats. Huts clung precariously to the high ground for survival. Ramshackle sheds dotted the hills, barely sheltered from the elements with improvised roofs made from corrugated zinc.

We reached Murray Hill in the late afternoon, but it took 20 minutes more to travel deeper into the countryside, along thinning roads. Finally, we backed the car up to an angled trail. It could go no further. Soon, a slow-moving countryman approached the car.

"This is Herbert," Triston said.

"Respect," the old Rasta offered, pumping my fist in his.

"He tells me you got the Old Time Weed," I said, smiling.

"Yah, mon!"

Herbert handed me perhaps an ounce wrapped in a piece of newspaper. I broke up the bud and sniffed it. "You've been

growing this here since the 1970s?"

"Yah, mon."

"I'm *really* looking forward to smoking your herb, Herbert."

"Yah, mon."

Thankfully, Herbert was a man of few words, and it didn't take long for Triston to do his deal. Since we'd backed the car onto Herbert's land, it was much easier to drive out of this wilderness back onto the unclassified roads that led down the wild mountain. But it still took forever—tossing, twisting, pitching, and yawning as villagers stopped and watched our car pass through their dreamscape. At last, we rolled out onto B3 and headed north to Brown's Town. The road was potholed but paved—certainly not smooth, but like satin compared to what we'd just driven.

We hit Brown's Town shortly after dark. It was Saturday night, and the place was rocking. Locals played dominoes loudly, and kids scampered about. Andrew Holness, the country's former prime minister, was holding a political rally on a street corner. We drove within 10 feet of him barking into a mike.

Once beyond the rally, we made our way to the Rural Agricultural Development Agency, set in a cluster of commercial buildings. For the first time ever, a *High Times* Cannabis Cup intake would be

performed inside a government office.

Eight aspirationalists awaited, certain that their entries would win. The ganja here was far different from the entries we'd accepted in St. Bess, which looked very different from the hybrids in Kingston.

And the Long Time Weed? It looked like nothing else at all! It was fruity and moist and made me laugh. The Cannabis Cup judges would certainly have their work cut out for them.

By the time we left Brown's Town, we were spent and wanted to get back to Negril, still two hours away. We were exhausted in every sense of the word: mentally, physically and spiritually. The Legal Ride had lasted over 36 hours. We'd acquired dozens of entries and several pounds of the Long Time Weed. We were dog-tired. And we were done—except for one more intake we had left.

We took a short drive to the northern shore—back on A1 heading west—and met one last grateful grower late at night on the side of the road in Trelawny. He was thrilled to enter the competition.

"This is the best," he promised. "This is the best."

"I'm sure it is," I agreed.

And now, having picked up the best weed in Jamaica, the *High Times* Jamaican Cannabis Cup intake was complete. ♣

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BRAVE NEW CANNABIS WORLD?

Biotechnology finds its way
into professional cannabis breeding.

Story & Photos by Green Born Identity - G.B.I.



The word spread quickly in August 2011 after Medicinal Genomics sequenced the cannabis genome for the very first time and then published the raw data on the Internet. The genome, from a sample of Chemdog, was very complex, consisting of about 400 million base pairs. Medicinal Genomics announced that it was releasing the data to promote a deeper understanding and exploration of the therapeutic potential of cannabis, in the hopes that the medical cannabis industry could

someday create strains specifically developed for certain diseases and precise cannabinoid profiles.

Conservative observers panicked, fearing that genetically modified cannabis boasting twice as much THC as the current A-list strains might devastate unsuspecting consumers and drive people psychotic. Others voiced concerns that the seed business would face a hostile takeover by corporations like Monsanto, who would seize huge market shares with their genetically engineered and patented cannabis strains.

Inside the pot production facility of Bedrocan.



These fairly unrealistic projections won't be coming true anytime soon, if at all. For starters, the cannabis genome that Medicinal Genomics published is an "unedited" raw version with millions of fragments—one that has created more questions than answers, essentially leaving us with a giant jigsaw puzzle to assemble.

As a result, genetically engineering the cannabis plant doesn't have any viability—yet. A multitude of questions still remain about what functions each gene carries out, when and how each gene is activated, and how they are regulated within the plant.

Some crucial genes and their functions have been identified, but by other scientists. Only two months after Medicinal Genomics' data dump, a team of researchers at the University of Toronto, led by botany professor Jon Page, became the second group to sequence and publish a cannabis genome, or in this case two: one for the THC-rich strain Purple Kush, the other for an industrial-hemp strain called Finola that has almost no THC. With the genomes for both types of cannabis on hand, the scientists managed to determine certain things by comparison—for example, that a simple genetic switch is responsible for the production of tetrahydrocannabinolic acid (THCA), the precursor of THC. "The THCA synthase gene is turned on in marijuana, but switched off in hemp," Page reported.

The professor and his team are now hard

The ability to assay for specific genes within the crop is equivalent to superpowers for a breeder.

at work refining and improving their results. Page founded his own company, Anandia Laboratories, with the aim of putting these findings into practice by breeding cannabis with improved therapeutic properties. Interestingly, Page doesn't foresee a bright future for genetically modified pot. He points out that the attempts at creating transgenic cannabis thus far haven't had much success. And even if researchers obtain better results in the future, he still harbors doubts about whether it's a desirable direction to move in. "I'm not convinced that it is," he says, "given the power of selective breeding to create plants with optimized traits."

Medicinal Genomics and Page's team aren't the only two groups studying the cannabis genome. Another band of scientists joined the party in February 2014 and is determined to surpass all the others. At the University of Colorado, Boulder, the highly ambitious Cannabis Genomic Research Initiative launched with the goal of pursuing

the deepest-ever exploration of the ganja genome: not only those for *Cannabis sativa* and *indica*, but also for hybrids of these two species (provided they're actual species at all; that age-old question of whether cannabis is one species or three—*sativa*, *indica* and *ruderalis*—could one day be settled by this work).

Nolan Kane, the project leader, wants to provide precise genomic blueprints for researchers, hemp farmers and cannabis growers in order to accelerate and optimize the process of selective breeding. His Cannabis Genomic Research Initiative could one day lead to more powerful and finely tuned medicines. Kane says that the work of Medicinal Genomics laid a "strong foundation" for his project, but he likened the results to a massive book with its pages out of sequence—and Kane aspires to put them all in order. "They got it down to 60,000 pieces," he explained. "We want to get it down to the 10 pairs of chromosomes."

Kane stressed that the Colorado-based initiative isn't interested in conducting or promoting genetic modification; it merely aims to enhance traditional breeding approaches. "The ability to assay for specific genes within the crop is equivalent to superpowers for a breeder," he notes. So Kane and Page seem to be very much in agreement about the desirability and advantages (or lack thereof) of genetically modified cannabis.

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Outside the world of academia, right within the recreational cannabis industry, yet another person is working hard to systematically sequence the cannabis genome. He's doing so because his employer—a major Dutch seed company—has a huge interest in using such genomic data for its business. Breeders around the world, whether in the US, Canada, Spain, the Netherlands or elsewhere, could use such a high-tech tool to accelerate and perfect their work. All of them strive to breed the most potent, high-yielding, aromatic, stable and homogeneous strains possible, and all of them would like to get their hands on such a powerful tool, which would set them apart from their competitors.

However, a seed company also needs someone who knows how to use such a tool—and in almost every case, that certainly won't be the seed bank's owner or breeder, because these guys are usually self-taught and don't have the years of education and training necessary to work with genomic data. That type of endeavor requires the skills of a geneticist or biotechnologist—and that's precisely why a well-known Dutch seed company decided to hire one a while ago, securing the services of scientist Marko B., a.k.a. Blitzo.

Blitzo has worked on a self-employed basis in the field of biotechnology for years, while his open-minded attitude toward cannabis completed the requirement profile. Blitzo set up a molecular-biology laboratory for his employer in the hopes of establishing a revolutionary new base for cannabis breeding. Next, using one of the "unedited" cannabis genomes recently made available, he plans to focus on the generation of actually applicable genomic data, while at the same time generating still more data on another platform and with another methodology that will make it possible to also decipher the epigenome.

This last step is critically important. As Blitzo explains: "It's a kind of missing link, as it hasn't been explored yet—or at least has not yet been described. The epigenome is the memory or control unit for genes, determining which ones get activated and which are switched off." Only the breeder who knows and understands the epigenome will be in a position to precisely target and influence a breeding process based on genomic data.

After Blitzo completes the genome sequencing (he also contends that the cannabis genome has 800 million base pairs, not 400 million), he'll be able to develop a method to genetically trace any given cannabis plant back to its point of



origin, through the determination of its respective parent strains. "I think that it will also be possible to one day conduct a sort of computer-based pair-mating," he predicts, "genetically selecting and optimizing hybrids on the PC so that those big time, area and cost dimensions of classic phenotype selection would become a thing of the past. It would be like individual paint-mixing in the home-improvement store: With a seed company of the future, one could order a plant with certain desired properties and then receive accordingly mixed and compiled genetics from the database of already existing strains, accurately tailored to one's needs."

Blitzo acknowledges that it will take decades before his vision becomes a reality—and the seed company that hired him wants him to attain a couple of crucial short-term and midterm goals first. For starters, the cannabis industry still needs a 100-percent-reliable way to make female plants produce male flowers for the production of feminized seeds. Some strains suffer damaging stress and even mutations when exposed to the potent chemicals used to make female plants go hermaphroditic.

Blitzo is already looking at a surprising approach to solving that problem: With the use of special bioengineered microorganisms, he might be able to make any female cannabis plant grow male flowers with pollen. Such a method would be much more gentle and benign than using toxic and mutagenic agents like silver thiosulfate or gibberellic acid. Not surprisingly, Blitzo isn't ready to reveal yet what microorganisms he has in mind or just how they'd do their job.

On another front, Blitzo is seeking a way to precisely target and activate (or deactivate) the flowering impulse of autoflowering plants. Epigenomic data will play a crucial role in this, since he needs to identify exactly which genes control the release of flowering hormones, and exactly what mechanism causes them to get activated when they do. Although indoor growers have long been familiar with the 12/12-hour light cycle that induces the flowering stage, scientists still don't know the precise biochemical mechanisms behind this process.

Another important task already underway is the introduction of sterile-tissue culture to safely maintain a seed company's precious genetics. Blitzo will also have to tackle the challenge of producing regular 50/50 batches of male and female seeds from

(Top) Laboratory conditions are essential to successful study.
(Middle) Blitzo working in the lab.
(Bottom) Male flowers needed for making feminized seeds.

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strains that are currently available only as female cuttings, such as the legendary G-13 strain. In these cases, a breeder is confronted with a task contrary to the feminization process. As Blitzo explains: "For the production of regular seeds, a female and a male plant are required—that is, the sex-chromosome pairs XX and XY. But since, in case of G-13, the XY plant is missing, so far only feminized seeds could be produced with her. With some biotechnological tricks, though, one can generate a real male plant out of a female plant, afterwards producing regular seeds—XX and XY—by means of the then-available male XY pollen."

Not content to rest there, Blitzo is also conceiving even more projects to launch in the future—for example, biological additives that could regulate the vegetative and flowering stages of a cannabis plant. Say that a breeder has a bunch of strains with different flowering times growing in his garden, but he wants them to finish at the same time—using such additives, he could prolong or shorten the flowering stage of certain plants to synchronize the whole batch.

Prolonging the flowering stage of a plant beyond its natural duration would yield some very interesting biochemical possibilities, Blitzo argues. "Think of a plant with a regular THC content of 20 percent that normally takes 10 weeks of flowering to ripen. If one could extend

the flowering stage to 15 weeks with the help of such an additive, the plant would produce more and more THC and, in the end, potentially achieve a THC content of 30 percent."

Another possibility would be developing boosters and biological fertilizers with an entirely new principle of operation and an innovative approach—for example, they might contain rhizobia, soil bacteria that can bind nitrogen from the air and deliver it directly to the roots. Other symbiotic systems could also be integrated into cannabis cultivation, reducing fertilizer requirements and saving money while protecting the environment.

Over the long term, Blitzo has even set his sights on the medical sector: "At some point, I also want to research the human endocannabinoid system—CB₁ and CB₂ receptors, anandamide and 2-arachidonoylglycerol, etc.—and the impact that different endocannabinoids and their naturally occurring mimetics are having on the regulation of certain physical and psychological processes." Mimetics are chemical compounds that bind to the same receptor as the actual agent. Other plants from the genera *Echinacea*, *Acmella* and *Aster* also produce some kind of cannabinoid-like substance and are therefore highly interesting as research subjects, as do other plant families and even other kinds of organisms. In that

broad context, scientists will explore ways to transgenically produce a number of different compounds. This means that after a transgenic treatment, fungi, algae or bacteria might be able to produce specific cannabinoids much more cheaply than cannabis.

As one can readily imagine, all of these projects would keep a small army of scientists busy for many years. Blitzo is a kind of walking think-tank, a person from whom ideas gush forth like a fountain—though, of course, he and the company he works for pursue a more methodical, step-by-step process in bringing these ideas to fruition. At some point in the future, after Blitzo has achieved his short- and midterm goals, the company would need to develop more capacity for research. But if even a small part of these projects are realized, they would represent a quantum leap for professional breeding and cannabis research in general.

At that stage, it would be much more difficult for corporate giants like Monsanto to drive their competitors out of the market and take over, since the most important innovations would already have come from the cannabis industry itself. So will a brave new cannabis world emerge from a biotech laboratory in the Netherlands? As with so much else that's interesting in life, we'll just have to wait and see... ☀

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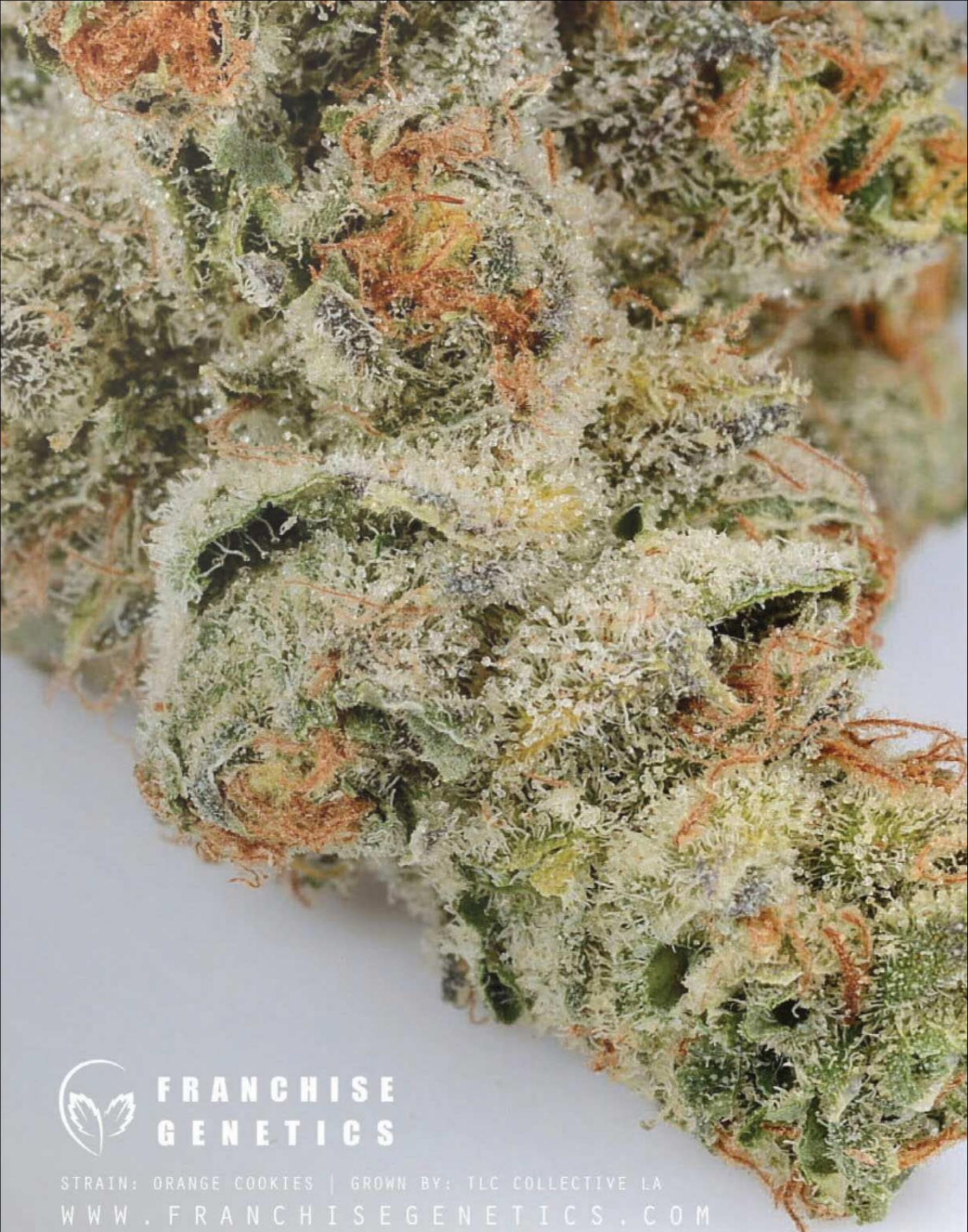
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DAWN OF THE DANK

How were the powers of pot first unearthed? The same way they're being rediscovered today—through curiosity about the natural world. *Story by Rick Thompson, Illustrations by Mort Todd*



Human beings didn't invent fire; they merely tamed it. Before fire could be tamed, it was observed. Primitive humans saw the grasslands burn, saw forest turned to char by natural disaster, and learned what fire can do and what it needs. The first time a caveman tossed a pile of grass on glowing embers and saw flames erupt, he learned what it was to control fire by controlling its food.

When his friends gathered around the flames and were warmed, the caveman learned that by controlling fire, he gained power. When that fire began to die down and his friends started hitting him with rocks and sticks, the caveman learned that tending the fire is work and that responsibility sucks.

That first experience with fire spawned a furious burst of innovation for humankind. We learned that burning stuff is fun, that barbecue contests

can create lifelong rivalries, and that different things react differently when heated. Useless things became useful; tools became better; the impossible became possible. Fire changed the way our species viewed the environment, and it inspired curiosity.

It was only a matter of time before that curiosity was turned toward agriculture. Like the taming of fire, taming plants involved a process of experimentation and error in which some were discarded

and the useful ones embraced. And one of the first plants to be recognized for its value to early humans was hemp.

(A note: We like to say that the one thing that stays constant is change. Science changes, too—Pluto is no longer considered a planet; quantum theory delivered a revolution in physics; and we no longer use the term B.C., or “Before Christ,” to refer to events in the distant past, some 2,017 years ago or longer. These days, B.C.E., or “Before the Common Era,” is the “scientifically correct” term. Both appear in this article, but they mean the same thing. I’m willing to change scientific terms, but I object to that whole Pluto thing.)

The Road Warriors

Scientists use a vast array of tools to track down the history of the hemp plant: its origins, early uses and progression across the globe. Hemp as a plant was present in the ecosystem of northern latitudes for millennia. Before hemp, flax, lentils and other crops were intentionally cultivated, they were used as wild resources.

Nomadic Stone Age humans planned their year around the migration of prey, the acquisition of shelter and the harvest of wild plants. Their travel routes through the ancient world imply an intentional trek through bountiful lands that would provide lots of prey animals and useful vegetation.

But even nomads parked the car and took a load off every once in a while. It’s not difficult to imagine a family grouping of primitive humans taking their rest in a valley near a prosperous field of wild hemp. A period of birthing and preparing meat for the cold season would have coincided with harvesting the fruits and vegetables available to Neolithic hunter/gatherers. Considering hemp’s reputation for resisting rot and mildew, early humans may have used vessels made from hemp to store the goods they’d



We do know those early humans learned from watching animals that eating some rotting fruit can get you drunk.

need during the difficult months ahead. The ancients knew how to separate the useful fiber from hemp stalks by drying and retting. For a few days after harvest, the hemp would be left to dry, then weighted down in ponds or slow-moving streams. The water swelled the stalks until the outer layer burst, promoting the rot and decay of the inner plant parts and making it easy to reap the fibrous portions.

Did early humans eventually toss some hemp flowers into the fire and cop a buzz? Perhaps—but the THC content of those early strains was so low as to make this highly speculative. We do know those early humans learned from watching animals that eating some rotting fruit can get you drunk. Certainly, humans began manipulating honey and grape into mead and wine as part of their earliest agricultural endeavors.

Taming the Wild Strain

Early humans first domesticated plants during the last part of the Stone Age, known as the Neolithic Period, from about 10,000 B.C.E. to 4,000 B.C.E. Using stone tools, they transitioned from hunting and gathering to establishing farming settlements.

Why would our ancestors abandon the road life and settle down? A stabilized global climate probably provided the first-ever abundance of food for early tribal groups—and agriculture was a natural evolution in activity for labor-capable societies.

Hemp is widely cited as one of the first plants domesticated by human beings. We can’t see back into these ancient cultures, but we can evaluate what they left behind: DNA, ruins, artifacts and language. That includes the scraps of cloth recovered from digs and excavations. In 1992, the archaeologist Dr. Elizabeth Wayland Barber wrote, “People all across the middle latitudes of Europe and Asia... knew and were using hemp since 5,000 B.C.” She knows this because carbon dating and

other scientific techniques can accurately determine the age of the cloth she identifies as hemp-derived. But cloth doesn’t grow on trees; nor does it run around waiting for you to kill it. It’s manufactured by people, and Barber believes the key to making cloth was the invention of string—including hemp string.

Humans are curious. When primitive farmers began the process of planting and harvesting, they experimented by discarding the weak and saving the strong. Thus, the process of selective breeding was begun.

Wild strains of wheat and vegetables were refined through this practice over thousands of years. Plants were altered by ancient farmers to express certain traits: fat oil-seeds, for example, or taller stalks or more fruit.

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or whose harvested seeds resist mold, would have been advantageous for early societies. Tribes who knew how to grow the good stuff would've had an advantage over those whose hemp was poor—and that competitive edge may have meant the difference between life and death for some prehistoric cultures.

The hemp that our early Indo-European ancestors used and tinkered with for thousands of years was non-intoxicating. But sometime during the Iron Age, about 1,000 B.C.E., that changed.

We can trace word origins from their first appearance in early literature, and the Greek scholar Herodotus plays a key role in tracking the time that smoking cannabis became popular. Some time around 440 B.C.E., Herodotus wrote *The Histories*, and he described a practice unfamiliar to himself or his peers at the time: smoking weed, which the Scythians did in sweat huts made from felt tents.

"The Scythians, as I said, take some of this hemp-seed [presumably, flowers], and, creeping under the felt coverings,

hemp crops whose purpose was not fiber or food.

Barber believes that when the word *kánnabis* or similar terms began to appear in written texts around 1000 B.C.E. to describe the Scythian plant, it marked the beginning of recreational use. "When IE [Indo-European] groups started borrowing a new word four millennia later, it had to have been for a new use: drugs. The old northern varieties of hemp did not contain the narcotic THC; and the 2nd millennium was probably the first time that enough people were travelling back and forth between Iran (where it grew) and eastern Europe that they could spread a habit, along with its source, the THC-bearing hemp."

New trade routes between Europe in the West and China in the East made Scythian cannabis accessible to all civilizations of the day, including the Romans. Their influence in the regions of Egypt and Palestine, and their extensive road and trade network, ensured that the decadence of the day was enhanced by the new Scythian technique.

Texts that would later become some of the most durable works of humankind were scribed during this period—texts that would be included in the Christian Bible and Hebrew religious works. Etymology plays a role here again: In Hebrew, *q n h bo em* is possibly a reference to intoxicating cannabis, while *qanbes* is used to describe hemp as a textile. Ezekiel is quoted in the Bible as using the word *pannag*, which may also refer to cannabis.

Once farming was mastered and the hemp plant in all its forms had secured its place in the lifestyle of the ancients, humans and cannabis couldn't be separated. Not that we didn't try—historically, the politics surrounding cannabis has controlled our interaction with the plant. *Q n h bo em* was incorporated into ancient holy oils, some of which were forbidden for human use by Hebrew custom. The rules of mercantile exchange and religious law have limited human access to cannabis at different times in the Common Era. US presidents grew it, smoked it and enjoyed it—but then we entered a scientific "Dark Age of Cannabis," when the study of intoxicating hemp was essentially halted on a global scale during the mid- to late 20th century.

In 2016, humankind has embarked on a brand-new chapter in the history of cannabis—one to rediscover the herb and to explore anew our connection with it.



"Take some of this hemp-seed and, creeping under the felt coverings, throw it upon the red-hot stones; immediately it smokes, and gives out such a vapour as no Grecian vapour-bath can exceed."

The Rise of THC

Etymology is the study of the origin of languages and how they evolved over the centuries. It's like *ancestry.com*, but for words. Etymology tells us that the word "cannabis" is very old. The Greeks called it *kánnabis*, but even that term was derived from the Scythians or Thracians, who occupied a large region near present-day Iran. ("Marijuana" is basically a 20th-century term that does not appear in older works.)

throw it upon the red-hot stones; immediately it smokes, and gives out such a vapour as no Grecian vapour-bath can exceed; the Scyths, delighted, shout for joy," he wrote.

The Scythians, while using selective breeding to enhance their hemp crops, discovered that the resin-laden flowers of some plants carried a different effect. Once the value of those flowers became clear, they used early farming techniques and enhanced the wild strains to create



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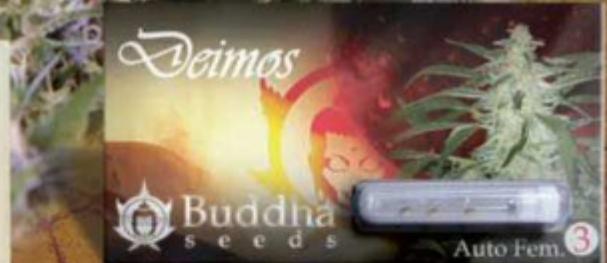
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Modern Humans Are Cavemen With Glasses

Take a look at the grow op of the average modern cannabis farmer and you'll see the techniques of the ancient world still in use today. We selectively breed strains to produce the qualities we value, like fat trichomes or a dank smell. Strains that produce high concentrations of cannabidiol were practically

unknown in the North American marijuana market until the last 20 years, because CBD was a constituent that had no value in recreational uses.

Today, every stoner with a basement grow wants to create a new strain and name it. We cross different varieties in much the same way the ancients did: cull the weak, put the strongest samples of two kinds of cannabis in a room, and turn on some Barry White music.

Scientists may use gene splicing to get

more predictable outcomes from their marijuana manipulation, but everyday growers use human evaluation to decide which strains are the best. We sample the cannabis and use our senses—taste, sight, touch and smell—to decide which ones knock our socks off or cure our headaches.

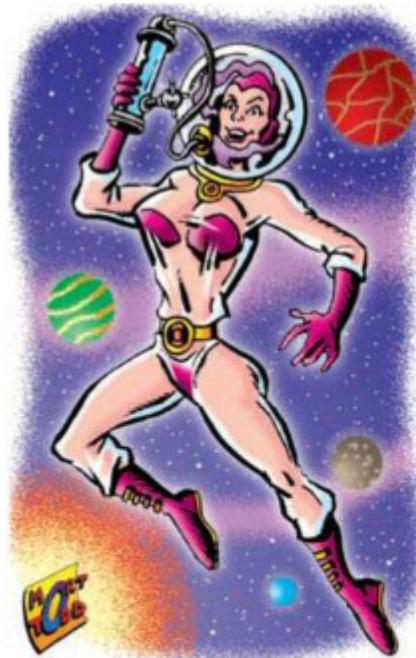
Our ancient ancestors did this too, since it was the only way they could get a feel for how successful the mating was. Test tubes can't talk, and beakers don't get high, so old-school is the best school—even in 2016.

Three thousand years of sedentary life have made our senses dull; a stationary lifestyle has made our legs weak; and Taco Bell has desensitized our taste buds. Early humans didn't have burritos, though, so they may have been able to smell hemp growing from great distances. They would have directed their tribal groups to those plants in much the same way we identify the one guy with weed in a crowd of concertgoers: close your eyes, ignore the pop music surrounding you and just *breathe*.

Early humans experimented with cannabis and its byproducts, too: crushing the seeds to make a paste or a flour-like powder, figuring new ways to extract fiber, and learning the types of soil in which the plant grows best. Those pursuits were just as revolutionary as the invention of earwax, shatter or Marinol.

Modern extraction pioneers are now creating new applications for an ancient herb. Cross-breeding trials and refining experiments are widely conducted, which may enhance not only the use of cannabis, but the breadth of science itself. Thousands of years after it was first discovered, our human curiosity for cannabis continues to be piqued. *

Rick Thompson is a cannabis journalist and a board member of MI Legalize.



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Three Pounds Per Light!

Expert grower
and author
Josh Haupt
inspects his
crop.



A gorgeous, glossy new book touts the possibilities of harvesting huge in your indoor grow.
Story & photos by Dan Skye



Three pounds per light?

Josh Haupt says it's the standard response when he tells experienced growers that he's developed a method for harvesting three pounds of pot for every light in their room. There are more colorful reactions too, like "Give me a fuckin' break!" or "You're so full of shit!"

The fact is that most growers would kill for *two* pounds per light, and experts warn not to expect more than one.

"That's the fun of it," Haupt says. "The *Three a Light* phone rings off the wall. I've been answering it for the last six months, and we get two types of calls. One is, 'I'm a brand-new grower. Is this

book too advanced for me?' Absolutely not—it's perfect for beginners! The second is, 'I'm growing right now and I'm getting two pounds a light, and I'm calling bullshit on your book!' They're the best calls, because then we get to talk about details and I get to win them over. When they see what's possible, they're blown away!" In late November, at a lavish bash in downtown Denver featuring performances by Ky-Mani Marley and Redman, Haupt unveiled his secrets in a massive volume aptly titled *Three a Light*. He's another one of those highly motivated twentysomethings who populate Colorado's cannabis industry. He owns Pomo Publications, which issued the book. He markets Success Nutrients, a three-part blend designed for *Three a Light* grow ops, but applicable to both soil and hydroponic gardens. And he's the CEO of Tree House, a group of commercial gardens in Colorado powered by the *Three a Light* method.

Haupt grew up in Grand Junction and became a registered med-pot patient at an early age for his epilepsy—which marijuana has virtually arrested. He put his first seeds in the ground at the age of 15, then moved indoors when he relocated to Breckenridge to grow in

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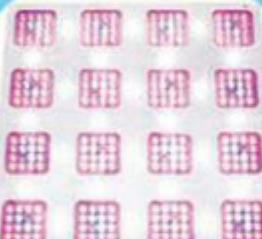
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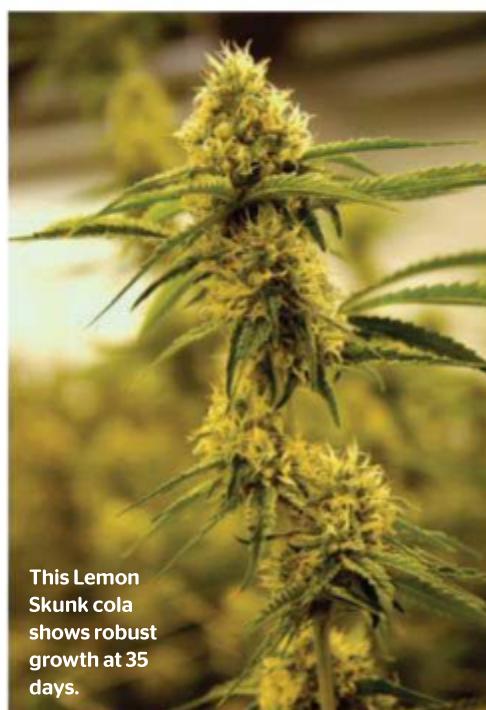
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snowboard country. It was there, he says, that he perfected his technique, which he describes as a "nine-spoke wheel."

"Those nine spokes," he explains, "are temperature, humidity, CO₂, room dynamics, genetics, food, water, manicuring and pruning, and, of course, TLC. All of these play into your yield. Once you understand how they need to be applied, you'll roll your way from seed all the way to the finished flower. But if you remove any of these spokes, the wheel won't roll as smoothly."

The art of growing often seems terribly daunting to those who are considering it for the first time. Hell, even veteran gardeners can find it frustrating!

"We've tried to keep our process as simple as possible," Haupt continues. "The average guy who just got his medical card, who has no idea how to grow, usually grabs *High Times* or goes for Jorge Cervantes, who's an amazing author and grower. They piece it together, and maybe they become an expert grower. Or they can check out my book. You can sit and smoke a joint and teach yourself. It's doesn't overwhelm you with scientific jargon. It's step-by-step, as easy as can be; it's thorough, and it's full of beautiful photos. That's the



approach *Three a Light* takes. Any home grower can create a situation where they can grow solid medicine for themselves. It can be applied to home gardens with just a couple of lights in the closet, or to big commercial grows. Essentially, we're filling a niche in the market—breaking down pot growing for maximum success—which doesn't exist right now."

One of the keys to reaching that 3-pound benchmark, Haupt says, is the "schwazze." It's one of those oddball terms that cannabis lovers coin, like "schwag" or "dabbing" or "shotgunning." Haupt picked up the term from his mentor: It denotes the practice of removing every single fan leaf on day one of flowering. Then the plant is schwazzed again in the third week of flowering.

"You're looking for optimum light penetration through the canopy," Haupt says. "Not only that, you're refocusing the plant's energy toward the top to generate new growth. When you schwazze your plants, you're removing a lot of their ability to uptake sugar. The fan leaves are sugar factories and feed the flower. When they're removed, you now have to feed the plant all that sugar and the micro/macro nutrients."

That's where Success Nutrients come in, providing the primary and secondary pH-buffered nutes necessary to sustain healthy plant growth.

The photography in *Three a Light* is first-rate and illustrates Haupt's pot-growing protocol perfectly. The shots of the aftermath of a schwazzing session are downright frightening: Can a garden actually survive such a process? But turn

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Redman and Ky-Mani Marley helped Haupt celebrate his book release.

the page and you'll view the lush, vibrant jungle of green that exploded a mere three weeks later.

Whether it's detailing the correct technique for cloning or providing tips on proper mediums, lights and water, *Three a Light*'s primary strengths are its comprehensiveness and its A-to-B

simplicity. At \$500, it's a very pricy book, to be sure. But when you consider what three pounds per light means in terms of money saved (or earned), it's eminently worth it.

The day after the book-release party, I toured Tree House gardens in metro Denver to see the *Three a Light* system

in operation. A dedicated crew maintains an assortment of veg and flowering rooms in a warehouse setting. Haupt's childhood friend and partner, Nick Costello, oversees the garden operations.

"Every nine days, we harvest," Costello tells me. "We harvest on a 70-day schedule. Every room has about two days of downtime for us to go in and clean it and bake it. Then we're good to go again."

I was led from room to room and checked out the various crops of Juicy Fruit, Lemon Skunk and Burkle (an exquisite cross of Bubblegum and Purple Urkel) in ascending stages of growth.

In the final room, the one closest to harvest, it was bud city—like looking upon a massive crowd of green-headed people. Thousands of buds stretched out before me, not unlike what the pope must see when he delivers his Easter Sunday sermon from the Vatican balcony overlooking St. Peter's Square.

Thanks to Haupt's *Three a Light* method, this garden is a huge flock to tend. But three pounds of pot per light is definitely a holy trinity to believe in.

To purchase Three a Light, visit three-alight.com; and check out successnutrients.com.

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INTERVIEW BY
MARY JANE GIBSON

WAYNE COYNE

THE HIGH TIMES INTERVIEW

THE FLAMING LIPS HAVE BEEN THRILLING FANS WITH THEIR LUSH, TRANSCENDENT SPACE ROCK, EYE-POPPING PSYCHEDELIC VIDEOS AND MIND-BURSTINGLY ECSTATIC LIVE SHOWS SINCE THEY FORMED IN OKLAHOMA CITY BACK IN 1983. THEIR LATEST RELEASE, *HEADY NUGGS: 20 YEARS AFTER CLOUDS TASTE METALLIC, 1994–1997*, IS A THREE-DISC REISSUE OF THEIR CLASSIC 1995 ALBUM *CLOUDS TASTE METALLIC*, WITH BONUS EPs AND A LIVE RECORDING OF A 1996 SHOW AT MOE'S, THE FAMED SEATTLE CLUB.

EVEN AS THE BAND LOOKS BACK ON MORE THAN 30 YEARS OF EXPERIMENTING WITH ALL SORTS OF SOUNDS (AND OUTFITS), THEY HAVE SIMULTANEOUSLY ACCELERATED INTO A BRAND-NEW ERA WITH A SIGNIFICANTLY

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FLAMING LIPS FRONTMAN WAYNE COYNE IS CLEARLY ENJOYING HIS FRIENDSHIP AND ARTISTIC PARTNERSHIP WITH THE POP STAR. THE SINGER CITES MILEY'S CREATIVE ENERGY AS AN INSPIRATION TO KEEP PUSHING THE BOUNDARIES IN MUSIC, ART AND LIFE—AS IF HE EVER NEEDED ANY ADDED INCENTIVE TO LET HIS FREAK FLAG FLY. COYNE IS HAVING A WONDERFUL TIME, AND HE WANTS THE WORLD TO KNOW IT, NO MATTER WHAT THE HATERS SAY. HE JUST DOESN'T HAVE TIME FOR FOLKS WHO DON'T KNOW HOW TO HAVE FUN.

Where did the *Heady Nuggs* title come from? Is it a weed reference?

It is. I think George [Salisbury] said it in a joking way—he's the guy I design stuff with. He may have said it, and I just liked the way it sounded. People took it as this weed reference, though we're really not that much of a weed band. I didn't know that it was a weed reference, but after I found out, it still sounded cool. Part of it is that there were these early-'70s compilations called *Nuggets*; I think I connected it to that and wasn't aware of the other stuff. So it had its own meaning for me.

When did you first smoke marijuana?

Gosh, I'm trying to remember. I have older brothers and an older sister—I was born in 1961, so they were already getting to be teenagers as the '60s rolled along. I remember we would have these boxing matches and sandlot football games with all of my brothers' freaky friends. There would be a lot of pot smoking amongst them, even when I was 6 or 7 years old. It never did anything for me, though—I mean, I never liked it. But I didn't realize how much I didn't like it until, really, just about a year ago, when I tried some of Miley Cyrus's completely, completely badass pot. And I realized: "Oh my God—that's the weird, psychotic, depressed paranoia that I felt when I was young!" I just thought I was going crazy, and I realize now that my brothers and their friends would smoke so much pot that I was getting a contact high—not knowing it was a high.

Even though it's not for you, you're an advocate for marijuana legalization and recreational weed?

For sure. I can definitely see that a lot of people like it, and the idea that it should

be illegal, I mean... I sold marijuana when I was 15, 16 years old. My thinking then, you know—it was the mid-'70s—was that it was going to be legalized any day, so I may as well make some cash on it while I could. Now it feels like within another five years, it will seem strange that [mari-

were all cowering in the back bunk. I had some regret about it—but, you know, what can you do?

The Flaming Lips' collaboration with Cyrus has been heralded as bridging a generational divide. Do you sense that?

I think the divide is between my generation and her generation. It's somewhere in between.

You have a unique ability to perform for a younger crowd and relate to them on a vital, exciting level. Where does that energy come from?

I think it's just that—I think it's just the *energy*. I don't know why I have it, but I'm lucky that I do, and that energy is what I think bonds me to people. It's not that they're young or old; it just bonds me to other people who have that energy. Certainly Miley Cyrus has that level of love for life, that love of being creative, and she attacks it. I think if I didn't have that sort of energy, I wouldn't want to be around someone like that—I'd be too tired. I don't think it has to do with age.

When we play festivals, it's a good combination, too. Certainly, it's mostly young people [in the audience], but there are some weirdos there that are kind of ageless because they just like being around that stuff. I think we're really lucky that we like that and feed off that. It helps us, and it makes us happy to be around that kind of energy. So, really, it's mostly that. I mean, I know some people that are in their 20s and don't have any energy. I don't like being around them that much.

Can you relate it to a kind of elevated consciousness—like tripping?

Not to me. I mean, it's really... I don't know, it's more like a *drive*. I get to wake up every day and do my art and do my music and do my thing. I don't ever dismiss that. Every day, I'm just like, "Fuck, this is cool—I'm going to go for it. I don't feel any reason to lay back." Which is what I think our audience wants. Our audience, they've given us this great, wonderful life, and I take full advantage



"I get to wake up every day and do my art and do my music and do my thing. I don't ever dismiss that. Every day, I'm just like, 'Fuck, this is cool—I'm going to go for it.'"

juana] would be a problem with the law.

You're probably around quite a bit of weed on tour with Miley Cyrus.

Yeah. I mean, there are times when you're around it 24/7, but I don't get a contact high now; I would only get high if I purposely tried to smoke it. I think, back then, it wouldn't take as much or something.

It's weird—I could never figure out that shift in my mind until I got way, way, *way* too stoned. About a year ago, at Christmas, Miley came here [to Oklahoma City]. We took one of her mom's Winnebagos and went to the Grand Canyon and did this long trip there for our Christmas party. The first night we were traveling down the road, we all were just collectively *non compos mentis*, and we decided we'd all try Miley's pot. By the end, we

[Laughs] Well, I don't think my generation and her generation have a divide. I think the divide is between her being a crazy 23-year-old and the people who are probably in their early 30s—that's where the divide is. I mean, people who are old like me, they could see [the collaboration] as fun and ridiculous and creative and all that. I think if you were young while she was Hannah Montana, you're probably going to have a little bit of a hard time embracing her music for a while. But I never had that issue—I like her in the current state that she is now. I met her when she was... I think I met her when she was 20, and she's now 23. So it's not very long.

But I didn't know her when she was 15, 16. Maybe that's why some of the leftover [*Hannah Montana* fans] are just not going to accept her, which... that's fair. But I don't

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of it, which you *want* me to do. So no, I don't think it's like tripping. I mean, it's... I don't know if I would enjoy tripping like a lot of people do. I've had some trips that I really liked, but I don't really take acid. I've taken it a couple times. I've done some ayahuasca and some mushrooms and stuff. Those, in the right setting, I think are amazing.

You seem to be positive about psychedelics in general.

I guess—to a point. I mean, a lot of people that I know that take them, they're just really nice, optimistic people. But drugs in general are... they're a hazardous thing. Luckily, I don't really have an addictive personality when it comes to drugs. I'm addicted to art, and music, and that side of me... I think I'm more addicted to that than I am to any illegal substance.

But some people can have a harder time with them. I mean, all of my brothers and my older sister, they've all been addicted to drugs at some point in their lives. Especially when I was young, I didn't like it. I saw how destructive it was. I saw how much regret they had about it and all that, so I think I've been cautious about it happening to me.

You're in Oklahoma City. That's considered the heartland, right?

[Laughs] Well, I think there's a lot of heart, yeah. You know, you could probably say Nebraska and Kansas and all that could be "heartland" too... but yeah, I'd say so. Yeah.

What's the culture and current political climate like there?

Well, the current political climate in Oklahoma is probably a little bit more of a step backwards than it has been. Maybe go back eight years or so, and it would be a bit different. But I don't really think about it that much; it's never really scared me or stopped me from living my life. So I never want to make that big of a deal about it. I've never

"Being cool is the enemy of really having a great experience at all times."

felt as though I grew up like a normal person in Oklahoma City—I grew up with my mom and my dad and my brothers and their friends, and that was the life that I still have. I don't think it would be what people would think of as a typical Midwestern life.

The more I see it now, the more I think everything is [happening] all at the same time for everybody. You're not really isolated—it's hard to have your own version of what your life will be. Everybody's life is available to all of us all the time now.

You've said that getting robbed at gunpoint in Oklahoma City many years ago changed you. How so?

Well, I don't think at the time you know how much it's going to change you. I was only 16, and I remember that I really did, in the heart of my mind, believe I was going to die. There had been a lot of robberies in the area, and people had

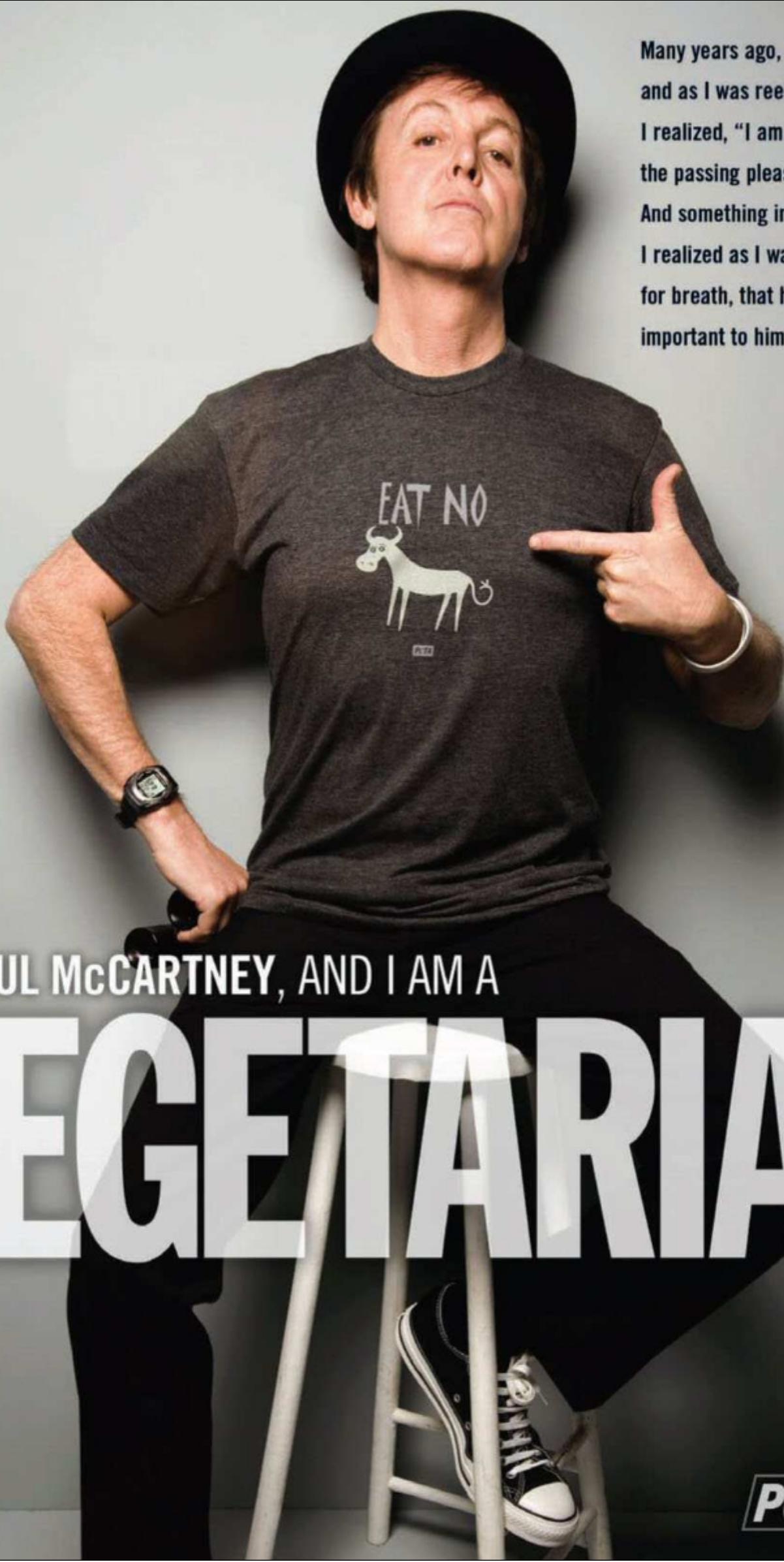
gotten killed, and this seemed very much like the way it was going to go. These guys had guns and they were completely pissed off, and, you know, we laid on the ground... it was just very much like [being killed by them] was how this was going to go down. And then they left—and I'm still here. But for a little while after that, I think all the little insecurities and all the little fears and all the little stupid things that you worry about [disappeared]... I think that's probably one of the reasons why I was able to be an artist and be in a band and do these things, and I was able to... not break free—I loved my family; I loved my mother and my dad and my brothers and all that... But this idea that I would just do what my dad did and work with my brothers and do that sort of thing—I think that was the moment when I didn't feel like I had to do that anymore. Or I understood that I didn't need to do that.

I think without that [experience], I may have not had such a moment of brazenness, or selfishness, or whatever it is that you call that. It had to be pursued: I wanted to do art, and I wanted to do music. What it did is, it [helped me say], "I don't care if people think I'm stupid—I'm alive, and I should be dead. I don't give a fuck."

It was the beginning of "I don't give a fuck." But that comes back after a while—I mean, you do give a fuck again—but it got me a little bit ahead. So I think that it utterly changed my life. I wouldn't have had such a thrust to do my thing, because I probably would have been too embarrassed.

Many years ago, I was fishing,
and as I was reeling in the poor fish,
I realized, "I am killing him—all for
the passing pleasure it brings me."
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Given your penchant for controversial projects and bold moves, is there anything that you would consider to be too embarrassing to do?

No. I would regret if it hurt someone's feelings or something like that, but I think in the name of art, those are the things that probably hold people back the most: They're afraid that they're going to look stupid or they're going to be embarrassed. And that's just one of the things I don't really consider. You do your thing, and what people think is outrageous or stupid this year, eventually they might think is the greatest, most original thing ever. You just don't know. But you can't think about it.

I always run into people who think that they're smart: "I'll go out there and figure it out." To me, that's boring. I'm not here to "figure it out." I'm lucky that I'm a slave to this thing, and I get to make music and art and be me. I'm the slave to this stuff that I think are my ideas. I hope I always am. I'm very nice and optimistic—I think that comes across more than anything else.

That energy radiates from your art and your music and, most of all, from your live performances. One of my favorite nights in New York was seeing the Flaming Lips at SummerStage on mushrooms. It was magical.

Thank you. I think that's part of it: that people are willing to surrender and just go with it and not be so cool. Being cool is the enemy of really having a great experience at all times. You meet people who... they have an idea of what's cool and what isn't, and I'm like, "I don't know—just do the maximum and try to *feel* things."

I guess there *are* things that you can say, "Man, that's cool." But to know what's cool and try to be cool and all that just seems to limit people.

Your collaboration with Miley Cyrus seems to be pushing a lot of people's boundaries.

Well, I understand that. Even when we did our Pink Floyd cover album eight years ago, or whenever it was, there's an old guard of music listeners that think they own the thing, and that they're right and everybody else is stupid and wrong. And then last year, when we did the *Sgt. Pepper's* cover record and Miley Cyrus was actually on it, you get people threatening to come to your house and kill you: "How *dare* you do this?" To me, it's just logical. But I understand that they've got this thing, and "How *dare* you mess with it? We made the whole world, and how dare you mess with it?" I just don't see it that way. I don't see why we get so upset about it. Those people are never going to have that much fun in life.

It seems like the sky's the limit for you. What dreams do you have for upcoming projects?

We don't have too many dreams; we don't have too much time to think of what might be, because there are so many things that are just actually happening right now. We're doing these shows with Miley, and when you're there, it really *is* a great night. I think she's seeing how much of her audience are people that love music and want the whole experience and don't judge it as much as I think she feared they might.

I have a studio at my house, and I am always, always doing stuff, and we have so much—we have ultimate control over all of the older Flaming Lips material. That's why we're always doing these cool reissues of things. So I don't know if I have any grand ideas at the moment; I think we're barely holding on being able to do what we're doing now and not be overwhelmed by it. But I'm sure I'll think of something. *

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Hearts and Minds Meet in DC

The biggest names in cannabis gathered in the nation's capital for a high-powered summit on policy, business and health.

By Mike Di Paola



Rep. Earl Blumenauer (D-OR) called the pot movement “an exciting revolution.”



Draw a Venn diagram of the cannabis industry, in which the circles are labeled “Politics,” “Medicine” and “Entrepreneurship.” That sweet spot where the three overlap is the deep core of the marijuana movement, and it’s also an apt descriptor of the High Times Business Summit, held in Washington, DC, over two days in December.

The event drew key players in business, political activism and science, a confluence of the hearts, minds and deeds that are driving this movement.

“It’s an exciting moment—a unique intersection in American history,” enthused Ethan Nadelmann, founder and executive director of the Drug Policy Alliance. What makes this revolution so special is that, although rooted in civil liberties, racial justice and public health, it is now well on its way to spawning an economic juggernaut. The brand-new legal marijuana industry is expected to top \$36 billion annually in the next five years—bigger than such powerhouse enterprises as the National Football League and the entire recorded-music industry.

Politics was amply and ably covered at the summit by, among others, Congressmen Earl Blumenauer (D-OR) and

What makes this revolution so special is that, although rooted in civil liberties, racial justice and public health, it is now well on its way to spawning an economic juggernaut.

Alan Grayson (D-FL). “You are part of an exciting revolution,” the Oregon rep and cannabis hero told the audience, reminding us that we have a (mostly) tolerant president at the helm who has helped to enable much of this revolution. “President Obama is the first president to tell the truth [about pot],” Blumenauer added. “He smoked. He *inhaled*.”

While Oregon is a good-news story, Florida is still stumbling fitfully toward legalization. From Grayson, we learned that the Sunshine State’s med-pot bid was torpedoed by evil billionaire Sheldon Adelson, who ponied up \$5 million to fund the opposition. Grayson smoothly dropped stats into his talk, noting the changing public attitudes in favor of legalization and pointing out that democracy will ultimately prevail.

The summit’s medical component featured a number of great contributors, including one off-site speaker, pioneering cannabis researcher Raphael Mechoulam, who Skyped in from Israel. The so-called “Father of THC” (he was the first to isolate the compound back in the 1960s), Mechoulam fielded questions on the medical

applications of cannabis for diabetes, Alzheimer’s, pain relief and more. The main obstacle in each case, he said, is the lack of in-depth research data. “We don’t have good clinical trials,” Mechoulam lamented. In many cases, “we don’t have *any* clinical trials—and that’s a shame.” This is why legalizing cannabis (or rescheduling it, at the *very* least) is truly a life-and-death issue.

There was no shortage of passion at the summit, which was probably best expressed by entrepreneur Charlo Greene, the former TV reporter in Alaska who changed her career and her life with a memorable on-air signoff: “Fuck it, I quit.” Her Alaska Cannabis Club took off from there, and Greene has never looked back. “I’m a warrior for good,” she declared in DC.

Looking back on the long, hard road that we’ve travelled to arrive at this moment, it’s somewhat ironic to see the marijuana movement going mainstream—or at least shedding some of its more persistent stoner stereotypes. Still, all of the speakers and attendees at the summit are evidence that the revolutionary spirit is still very much alive and remains, today as ever, the lifeblood of the movement. 

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A single seed forming at the internode where a branch meets the main stem.

SUBJECT: Seeds Explained

FROM: Tim E.

Will you explain the difference between auto-flowering, feminized and normal seeds?

Dear Tim,

Regular or normal seeds are just that—normal. They're the result of male pollen landing on a female flower and producing seeds that can be male or female. Feminized seeds, on the other hand, are the result of using “male” pollen from a hermaphroditic plant to fertilize a female flower, resulting in plants that can be females or hermaphrodites but never males. Auto-flowering plants are plants that begin the blooming process when they reach a certain height rather than because of a change in the photoperiod, which means that auto-flowering plants will begin to bloom regardless of whether they get 12 hours of light per day or 20.

Danko Tip: Using timers is essential if you want to provide the proper amount of light during the vegetative and flowering stages of growth.

SUBJECT: Tangled Roots

FROM: Mark R.

➲ I have a small hydro setup—a 3-gallon storage container with six holes cut into the lid and six 3-inch net pots—but the roots are getting all tangled together. Will this kill my plants?

Dear Mark,

Having their roots tangled together won't kill your plants, but it certainly isn't an ideal way to grow. Tangled roots compete with each other for nutrients, and one plant can end up dominating another by "choking out" the roots of a smaller neighbor. But this is usually more of an issue in soil grows due to the limited amount of resources. Hydroponically grown plants are provided with plenty of air and food at all times, so it's less of a problem in soilless applications.

SUBJECT: Lighting for Mother Plants

FROM: Toni B.

➲ For mother plants, which is the better light to use: a 400-watt metal halide (MH) or a 600-watt MH?

Dear Toni,

Metal halides are certainly the best lights for growing vigorous mother plants, but you must be prepared to handle the heat that they produce. Your plants will grow quicker and stronger under the 600-watt light, but it will also create more heat in your grow area.

Also, most people don't need their mother plants to grow super-quickly because they're only taking clones from them every couple of months or so. If that's the case, then even a strong fluorescent grow light can keep the mother plants bushy and strong without having them grow too big or too quickly.

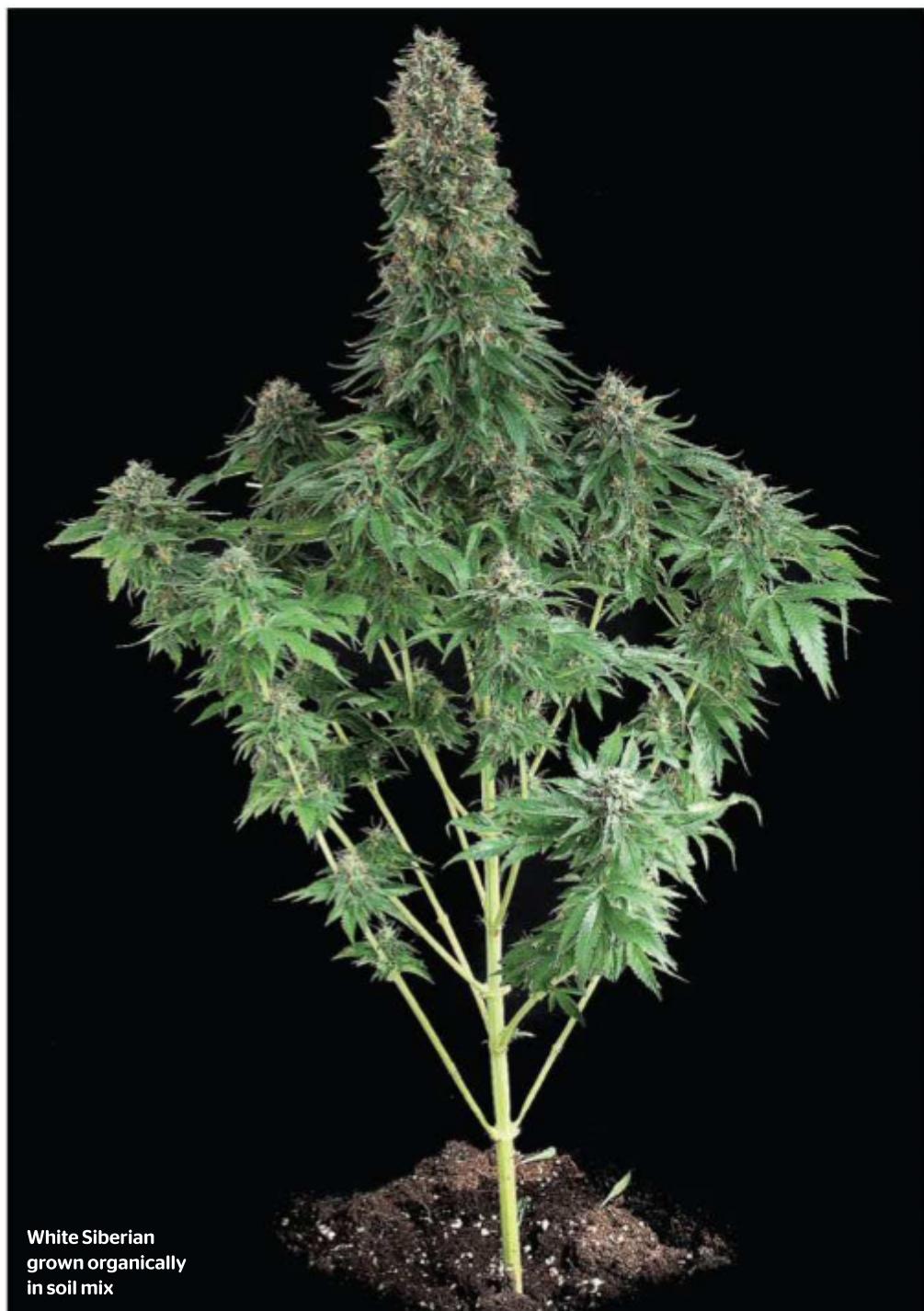
SUBJECT: Soil for Veganics

FROM: Dan D.

➲ I'm interested in using Kyle Kushman's Vegamatrix for my next grow. What's a good soil to use, or should you make your own soil with light nutrients?

Dear Dan,

Veganic growing is becoming more and



more popular as people discover the joys of consuming cleanly grown cannabis. Growers and aficionados love the enhanced aromas and flavors as well as the burnability factor of pot that leaves only a wispy white ash behind.

I asked my friend and mentor Kyle Kushman what soil he recommends for use with his new line of nutrients, and here's his response: "The best soil, in my opinion, for Vegamatrix is Premier Pro-Mix CC. The marble-sized chunks of coir really prevent packing and provide balanced air/water retention. Their HP formula is very good also."

SUBJECT: Split Light

FROM: Gomek

➲ I'm running a 1,000-watt SolisTek ballast at 600 watts on a light mover in a 4' x 8' flower chamber because there are heat issues at 1,000 watts. But I can split the output with this ballast and run two 600-watt bulbs at 530 watts each. Would this be better than the 600 on a trolley?

Dear Gomek,

I think in your situation, it's better to add the 600-watt light as long as you can handle the extra heat produced.



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122 Dear Danko

Danko Tip: Never smoke or otherwise consume buds with visible white mold or bud rot.

Two fixed 600-watt lights will certainly outproduce one 600-watt light moving back and forth on a light mover. Just be sure to increase your exhaust output so that heat buildup doesn't become an issue in your flower chamber.

**SUBJECT: Stoner Storage****FROM: Carlton**

Would it be better to store my cannabis in a glass jar in its own fridge, its own freezer, or a cool, dark place (say a shoebox or whatever)? I would think that putting it in its own fridge would be best, but I'm not 100 percent sure.

Dear Carlton,

I never recommend storing cannabis in a fridge or freezer; there are too many issues with humidity as well as light and temperature fluctuations. Keep your buds in a tightly sealed glass jar in a cool, dark place and they'll last a good long time.

SUBJECT: Light Dep**FROM: FC**

I'm attempting to grow for the first time. I've read many articles and watched many videos. My plant is growing well, but it's only about two months old. I'm growing outside and don't want it to grow too big or too long due to the risk of my neighbors finding out. I want to force the flowering stage to start, and I plan to surround the plant with bamboo poles and wrap black plastic around them to start the 12/12-hour phase. I should only have to cover the plant a few hours before sunset, and then I'll remove the plastic after sunset to prevent it from becoming too hot or moist inside. Does this sound like a viable plan?

Dear FC,

Your plan to use light-deprivation techniques does indeed sound viable: When vegetating plants are limited to 12 hours of light, they'll begin the flowering process. I especially like that you're aware of the possibility of creating too much heat or moisture in your enclosure. Hot temps and humidity can quickly take their toll, leading to burned plants and mold or bud rot. But you have to remember to be vigilant and not miss a single scheduled covering or removal. Any interruption of the dark cycle will potentially result in your plants reverting back to their vegetative stage, costing you valuable time.

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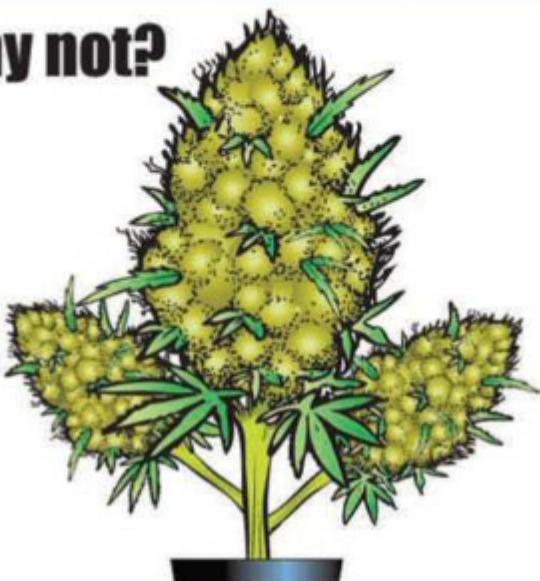
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Danko Tip: When taking pictures of plants under HPS lighting, use white balancing in order to diminish the orange/yellow glow.

SUBJECT: Yellow Leaves

FROM: GanjaSaims

Hi! I've been a grower in Belgium for 10 years. In the first four or five years, I didn't have any problems; the plants were beautiful, and the harvest was between 0.8 and 1 gram per watt.

Since then, I've moved several times and faced several difficulties, most of which I've solved. Using tap water was the first problem. In the first four or five years, I used filtered rainwater from the tank at my parents' house. Then I used tap water since I didn't have easy access to rainwater anymore. This caused a lot of problems, as my pipes seemingly leached stuff that was toxic to the plants. Now I go fetch rainwater from my parents' place with 5- to 10-liter plastic bottles, and this has solved most of my issues.

The only problem left is an early yellowing. Let me detail my grow op: I grow in a 1.2 x 1.2 x 2-meter grow tent with Mylar coating. The lighting is a 600-watt high-pressure sodium (HPS) lamp with a classic ballast and two fans to circulate the air inside the tent. I use one air extractor (Systemair RVK 125mm-225m³/h) with a carbon filter and an ONA block.

In terms of soil, I use Plagron Light Mix for the top layer and Plagron Royalty Mix for the rest. I use the Light Mix to avoid burning the young seedlings or plants when repotting, and to avoid having a bed of perlite on top of the pot, since it contains less perlite than the Royalty Mix.

Here is a list of the nutrients I use:

GP Bio-Roots 0.01-0.01-0.02 (GP Biotechnology)

BioThrive Grow 3-1-6 (General Organics)

BioThrive Bloom 2-3-4 (General Organics)

BioBud Bloom Booster (General Organics)

Appleford's Melasse (Healthy Food Brands)

Liquid Ocean 2-3-5 (Hydropassion).

The plants looked really perfect up until 25 to 30 days of flowering. At that point, the leaves' green color slowly started to become lighter. At 35 days into flowering, the Sweet Dreams and White Widow had really started turning yellow, the Shoreline had become mostly purple, and the Sour Cream was still a little greener but also seemed to need one more week than the others before starting the flush. At 45 days into flowering, the yellowing was already pretty strong, although the flush had just started.

I care a lot for my plants, and I have a feeling that they're not performing to their maximum potential in these circumstances. I have not had any other sign of leaf or fertilizer problems—no excess fertilizer, no other deficiency, no pests. Is this early yellowing normal?

Dear GS,

Your yellowing problem could be caused by one of two things: either a pH fluctuation or a nitrogen deficiency.

Always check the pH (i.e., the level of acidity or alkalinity) of the nutrient solution that you feed to your plants, then check the runoff after feeding to see if you have any fluctuations happening in your soil mix. With soil, you should adjust your pH so that it's between 6.2 and 6.6 for optimum nutrient availability.

It doesn't sound like your plants should be having a nitrogen deficiency, but if you diagnose that as your problem, you should add a high-nitrogen nutrient such as liquid seaweed or liquid fish. You can even add some during the early stages of flowering without the plants suffering from too much N. You should see your plants "green up" within a few days. *

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Some Like it Hot

Spice up your Valentine's Day with this luscious, melt-in-your-mouth Mexican spiced fudge from Colorado bakery Sweet Mary Jane.

By Elise McDonough

Spice up your Valentine's Day and surprise your stoner sweetheart with this luscious, melt-in-your-mouth chocolate fudge from Colorado bakery Sweet Mary Jane, which packs a hot chile flavor and a sensual dose of cannabis designed to elevate your evening of romance.

Sweet Mary Jane uses a cannabis-infused sugar they've dubbed "Hey Sugar!" You can find the recipe online at hightimes.com, or you can use regular sugar for this recipe

and substitute two tablespoons of cannabutter.

In her new cookbook, Sweet Mary Jane founder Karin Lazarus writes: "This chocolate-butterscotch fudge spiced with chile will appeal to anyone who likes a little heat with her sugar. Grace Gutierrez, head baker at Sweet Mary Jane, developed the recipe when we wanted to spice up the menu. It was a hit from the get-go. Heat, stir, blend, chill, and let the fiesta begin."

Ingredients

1 14-oz. can sweetened condensed milk
 $\frac{1}{4}$ cup Hey Sugar! (see above)
 1 12-oz. bag milk-chocolate chips
 1 12-oz. bag butterscotch chips
 2 tbsp. unsalted butter (or cannabutter)
 2 tsp. pure vanilla extract
 1 tsp. ground cinnamon
 $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. cayenne pepper
 $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. ancho chile powder
 $\frac{3}{4}$ cup chopped walnuts (optional)

Directions

First, grease a 9" x 9" pan with vegetable shortening. Bring about 1 inch of water to a simmer in a medium saucepan. Set a medium heat-proof bowl over the simmering water, making sure that the bottom doesn't touch the water. Place the condensed milk, Hey Sugar!, milk-chocolate and butterscotch chips and cannabutter in the bowl, then heat until the chips are melted and the mixture is creamy and smooth. Remove from heat. Add the vanilla, cinnamon, cayenne, ancho chile powder and walnuts (if any) to the warm chocolate mixture and stir to combine.

Finally, pour the mixture into the prepared pan and refrigerate until set, about 1 to 1½ hours. Cut into 81 equal-size squares and store in an airtight container lined with waxed paper. Separate each layer of fudge with additional layers of waxed paper. Store in the refrigerator for up to six weeks, or in the freezer for up to six months. Makes 81 pieces.



SWEET MARY JANE

Karin Lazarus, founder of the Sweet Mary Jane Bakery in Boulder, Colorado, shares her secrets for creating 75 high-end desserts in this new cookbook. Tantalize your taste buds with cannabis-infused Pop Star Caramel Corn, Twix Tricks Cupcakes, Chai High Truffles and more!

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EASY



Red Velvet Cupcakes

Ingredients

- 1 package of out of the box (OTB) Red Velvet Cake Mix
- 3 eggs
- 1 cup water
- 1/2 cup MagicalButter or Magical Cooking Oil
- 1 container of OTB Creamy Home-Style Cream Cheese Frosting
- Red sprinkles or cake crumble

Skill level: Very easy
Prep time: 5-10 minutes
Cook time: 30 minutes
Serving size: 1 cupcake
Yield: 18 cupcakes

How to

1. Preheat oven to 325°F/163°C. Place 18 paper baking cups in muffin pan(s).
2. Prepare cake mix using water, MagicalButter or Magical Cooking Oil and eggs in large bowl.
3. Beat with an electric mixer at medium speed for 2 minutes.
Spoon batter evenly into prepared pan(s).
4. Bake 30 minutes or until toothpick inserted in center comes out dry.
5. Cool cupcakes completely on wire rack.
6. Spread frosting on cupcakes and garnish.

*Recipe will vary depending on brand.

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Five Best Cannabis Chocolates

Ideal for gift-giving, these gourmet cannabis chocolates are highly suitable for Valentine's Day.

By Elise McDonough



DULCE DE LECHE BON BON

Caramelize condensed milk and blending it with roasted white chocolate creates a creamy dulce de leche filling for these decadent bonbons.

Each hand-painted truffle contains either 10 or 25 milligrams of THC, depending on your desired dose. Winners of a third-place High Times Cannabis Cup for edibles, Altai delivers a consistent, sophisticated experience designed to delight you every time. altaibrands.com



YUZU FRUIT CHOCOLATE

Handmade in Portland, Oregon, these organic chocolates come in three scintillating flavors: Ginger, Cinnamon and Yuzu Fruit. Packing almost 70 milligrams of THC, these fair-trade truffles use organic kief infused in coconut oil and are available in strain-specific varieties. They're one of the highest-dosage options available for gourmet chocolates, and high-CBD options are also offered by this group of family farmers. cropcirclechocolate.com



CHILI MANGO

From the newcomers at Opus Chocolates, these luscious cannabis-infused truffles contain tropical mango with trills of spicy red chili-pepper notes. Strain-specific options allow you to choose an uplifting or relaxing experience along with different unique flavor combinations like Tequila Lime, Blackberry Sage or Bananas Foster. These Chili Mango truffles are infused with a sativa strain and contain 20 milligrams of THC. @Opus_Chocolates on Instagram



CHERRY CORDIALS

From the winners of multiple High Times Cannabis Cup awards for their cannabis-infused chocolates, these new Cannabis Cherry Cordials from Liquid Gold put a psychedelic spin on a classic confection. Each chocolate-covered cherry contains 25 milligrams of THC, and they're available in either milk-chocolate or dark-chocolate shells. gfarmalabs.com



RALPH HAZELNUT TRUFFLE

Using a tiered dosage system, the chocolatiers at To Whom It May provide options for cannabis lightweights, starting at just 2.5 milligrams of THC and climbing to 5, 15 and 45 mg for users with a higher tolerance. The chocolates arrive in an elaborate box, and each flavor has its own named character. The "Ralph" truffle contains a poetic description, providing something to ponder while savoring the exquisite combination of hazelnut butter, dark chocolate and raw honey. towhomitmaychocolates.com



Flavor of the Month

Jimi's Medicated Macaroons

The family of the legendary musician brands a California edibles line.

The latest in a string of celebrity cannabis-brand launches, Jimi's Medicated Macaroons contain about 25 milligrams of THC, with various flavors bearing the names of classic Hendrix tunes. Purple Haze is really blueberry, Foxy Lady is stuffed with strawberry, Fire is a red cookie flavored with

wild cherry, and so on, for a rainbow of 12 different flavors in all. Each gourmet meringue cookie sandwich is filled with infused butter cream, creamy ganache or sweet fruit jams for a delicious psychedelic experience every time.

Created by Purple Haze Properties, a partnership between Hendrix's brother Leon and Andrew Pitsicalis, Jimi's Medicated Macaroons represent just one part of a diverse licensing venture that includes packs of pre-rolled Purple Haze joints from California's Finest, featuring a resurrected version of the classic '60s strain. jimismacaroons.com

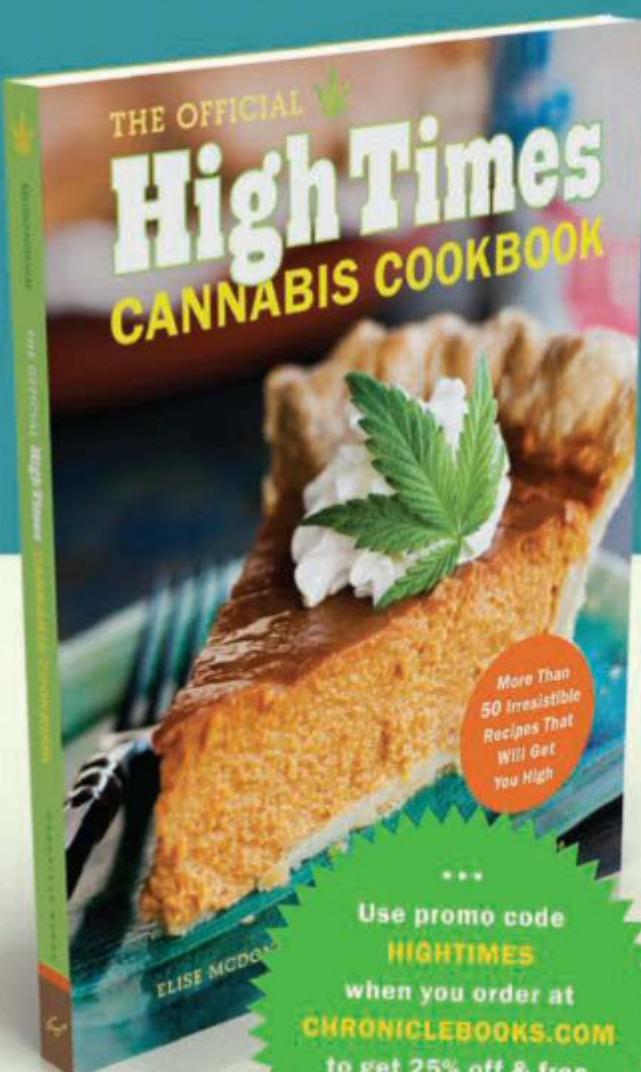
They Put Pot in What Now?!

Love Potion #420

Try this cannabis aphrodisiac tincture to get in the mood for love.



This sweet, honey-based tincture is infused with THC for a dose of 150 milligrams per ounce, plus 60 mg of CBD. Created by Yummi Karma, this "love potion" blends a cannabis glycerin tincture with herbs like guarana, ginseng, turmeric, yohimbe, stevia, damiana, dried crocus and more for additional sensual effects. Intent on appealing to female consumers, Yummi Karma CEO Krystal Kitahara wants to change the public perception of cannabis users by creating sauces, snacks and tinctures designed for a modern lifestyle. Along with Sriracha, ketchup, BBQ sauce and potato chips, Yummi Karma makes a special "Mood Magic" tincture for PMS, as well as "Drift Away" formula that promotes a restful night's sleep. yummikarma.com



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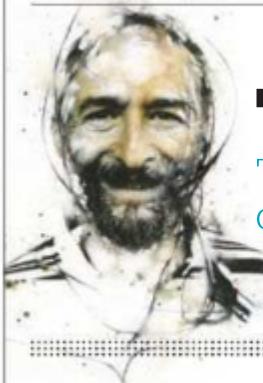


130 Ask Dr. Mitch

High Times April 2016

Toking Truths

Terps, bipolar disorder and celebrity busts.



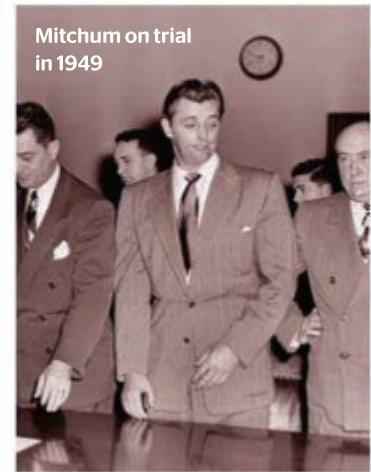
Got a question for Dr. Mitch? Email him at 420research@gmail.com.

You mentioned terpenes last month. What's up with caryophyllene? Thanks for all you do, Dr. Mitch!

Cinnamon Girl

day, get their sleep all out of whack, and end up in a manic episode. Psychotherapy's a huge help, too!

Mitchum on trial
in 1949



I heard you joke about Louis Armstrong doing time for possession. Is that really true?

Daddy O'Hepcat

Hi Cinnamon,

Happy to help! Caryophyllene, the legendary terpene found in oil of cloves, is a local anesthetic with the potential to kill some microbes, viruses and fungi. It's also an anti-inflammatory that may have anti-cancer effects. Caryophyllene is found in cloves and peppercorns and in most of the pot strains that smell like them, though often in doses too small to have much impact. Someday we'll know if these strains are the best for treating pain.

I know you said there's no link between the plant and depression, but what about a bipolar condition?

Labile Larry

Hi LL,

Many physicians feel that cannabis is too discombobulating for folks who experience both manic and depressive episodes, though many people have praised the plant for taking away their highs and lows. Yet another large longitudinal study recently showed no link between bipolar disorder and cannabis use. However, it's probably not the treatment of choice.

Those who use sedating strains before bed and keep their sleep patterns reasonable will do markedly better than those who use stimulating strains later in the

Hi Daddy,

It's no joke! Louis spent nine days in the LA city jail in 1931—even before federal prohibition had slithered its way through Congress. After it had, of course, decades of high-profile arrests followed: My namesake, the late actor Robert Mitchum, did two months on a prison farm back in the 1940s. Today's headlines indicate that musicians, movie stars, and professional athletes are still getting busted for possession. Who knows what real crimes the cops could be preventing if they weren't weighed down with enforcing prohibition! *

Dr. Mitch Earleywine is a professor of psychology at SUNY Albany and the author of *Understanding Marijuana* and *The Parents' Guide to Marijuana*.

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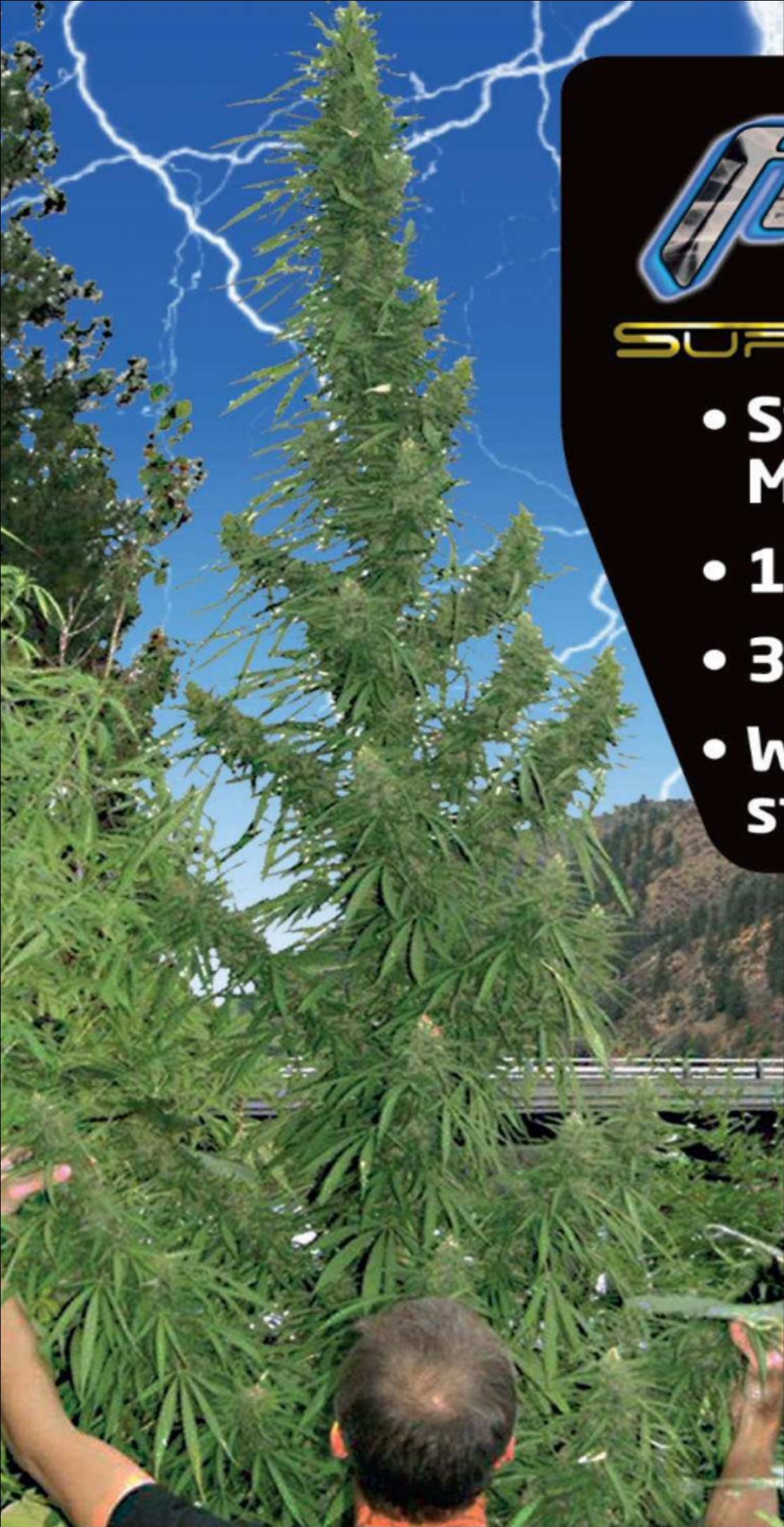
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Bad Dabs

Not all dabs are created equal... here's a guide to the not-so-great concentrates. *By Craig Coffey*

We spend a lot of time talking about great dabs. However, in order to really appreciate the good, it is necessary to understand what makes a dab bad. Let's explore some of the factors that make up schwaggy dabs, or schwabs.

Residual Solvents

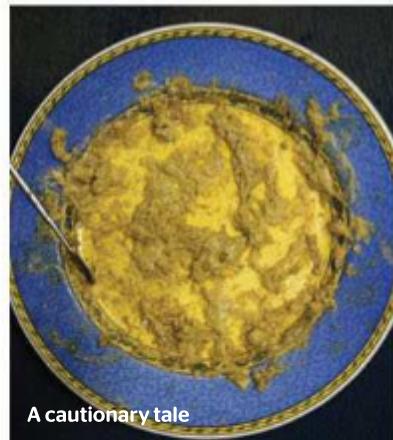
Dabs are made with solvents—usually hydrocarbons like butane—and ppm (parts per million) is a measure of how much solvent remains in the final product you're about to smoke. In black-market states, this is a complete crapshoot, since there's no reliable way to know if your dabs are safe to consume. In legal-market states, it's completely fair to ask your budtender for lab-testing information about the concentrates you're considering purchasing. Many legal markets have established a mandatory minimum ppm level, and any reputable cannabusiness should be testing its inventory and sharing the data with its customers. That being said, there's still no real consensus on what constitutes a safe—or dangerous—level of residual solvents in dabs.

Trim Run vs. Nug Run

A good question to ask when you're about to drop some cash on dabs: Is it trim run or nug run? "Trim run" refers to dabs that are made from the trim left over when manicuring buds; "nug run" refers to concentrates made from the buds themselves. A fine end product can be made from either, but the likelihood of your dabs being schwaggy goes up when only trim is used.

Incorrect Solvents

Not all butane sources are pure, and some brands of butane should never be used to create



consumables. You should ask what sort of solvents have been used to make your dabs; if the answer is anything sold in a can over the counter, you might want to think twice about laying down cash for that hash. Ideally, concentrates should be made with pure butane purchased from a reputable gas distributor, such as Air Gas. While there are some canned supplies of butane that work well and produce high-quality dabs, in general, using cans is the sign of an amateur manufacturer.

Contaminants

This is a major issue: Nothing can make a dab as bad as mold, pesticides, dust, hair—all of which make for a terrible-tasting and possibly dangerous product. Hold your sample up to the light; if you see anything in it, don't smoke it. The sample can be light or dark in color, but if light doesn't pass through it, you certainly don't want to smoke it.

Storage Issues

Good dabs can go bad if they aren't properly stored. Dabs tend to have a shelf life, and they change over time. Store your dabs in a cool, dark, dry place. Dabs stored in a moist place can become moldy, and dabs stored in a warm place will eventually degrade in flavor and potency. *

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The Road to the White House

Every candidate must now deal with the coming high tide of marijuana legalization.

Allen St. Pierre is executive director of NORML. Visit norml.org.

Another unmistakable political tea leaf regarding the impending legalization of cannabis can now be found at the highest level of American politics: the race for president. With the latest Gallup polling showing that nearly 60 percent of the US population favors legalization, direct questions on the issue of cannabis prohibition are regularly being asked of the candidates in nationally televised debates.

This trend began in earnest during the 2008 presidential election. Democrats, for the first time, came out in favor of access to medical marijuana for qualified patients, including the frontrunners, Senators Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton. Among the Republican slate of candidates that year, no one aside from Congressman Ron Paul (R-TX) supported marijuana-law reform.

History will observe that a pro-reform candidate emerged victorious that year with the election of Obama, who admitted to being part of a pot-smoking group of students known as the “Choom Gang” in his late teens. Although he has issued no executive orders or championed any legislation advancing such reforms, Obama effectively steered the country away from prohibition by allowing states the autonomy to craft their own cannabis commerce and taxation laws.

At this point in Obama’s second term, four states have now legalized cannabis



outright. Given that at least a half-dozen more are moving forward with legalization initiatives in 2016 (California, Nevada, Arizona, Michigan, Ohio, Massachusetts and Maine), and another three with ballot measures on medical marijuana (South Dakota, Missouri and Florida), whoever becomes the next president will inevitably have to deal with the political hot potato of prohibition.

In the early stages of the 2016 campaign, which began this past fall, marijuana-law reform was a burning issue in the primary debates. All of the Democratic candidates support some degree of reform, ranging from medical access (Hillary Clinton) to decriminalization (former Maryland governor Martin O’Malley) to the outright de-scheduling of cannabis under the Controlled Substances Act (Vermont Senator Bernie

Sanders). Much to the delight of advocates, the Democratic candidates are now squaring off on the question of *how*, not *if*, marijuana-law reform will happen.

By contrast, the GOP remains a source of political frustration, for two main reasons: first, because self-identified Republicans in surveys consistently oppose marijuana legalization (only about 36 percent support legalization, compared to 55 percent of Democrats); and second, because the candidates who should be traditional supporters of “states’ rights” (a tenet of the Republican Party’s platform for half a century) are wobblers.

New Jersey Governor Chris Christie insisted that if elected, one of the first things he’d do is “shut down the pot party in Colorado and the other states... and vigorously enforce federal anti-drug laws”—despite the inconvenient fact that a majority of voters in these states chose in lawful elections to end a failed public policy and replace it with a far more free market and constitutionally compliant one. Only 2016 candidate Rand Paul, the son of 2008 candidate Ron Paul, strongly articulates a traditionally Republican states’-right view when it comes to pot prohibition.

No matter which candidate or party ultimately wins the 2016 presidential race, one thing is clear: Marijuana legalization in the United States is going to remain a major political and policy issue. *

FREEDOM FIGHTER

Kansas City's Chief Activist

Making marijuana freedom a reality in Missouri is Jamie Kacz’s passion.

Jamie Kacz entered the world of marijuana-law reform advocacy shortly after losing family members who could have benefited from the therapeutic benefits of medical cannabis. Once she became a mother, her commitment to reform

redoubled after she witnessed what other families had to endure in order to gain access to safe alternatives medicines.

Born and raised in Kansas City, MO, Jamie is passionate about leading the shift in her hometown away from the outdated federal policies it adopted decades ago. She’s now the executive director of NORML KC.



Since forming the group last August, she has focused its efforts on putting the New Approach MO Medical Cannabis Initiative on the 2016 ballot.

Thanks to her work with Women Grow, Jamie was recently awarded a scholarship to attend the Cannabis World Congress and Business Expo in Los Angeles. She looks forward to the work ahead of

her and vows to continue the fight to end cannabis prohibition in Missouri, while empowering others to make a difference as well.

“The real crime is knowing that there are people—including children—suffering every day because they can’t get access to the medicine they need,” Jamie says. “We need to get out, stand together, and use our voices to fight to make a difference!”

By Kevin Mahmalji, NORML national outreach coordinator

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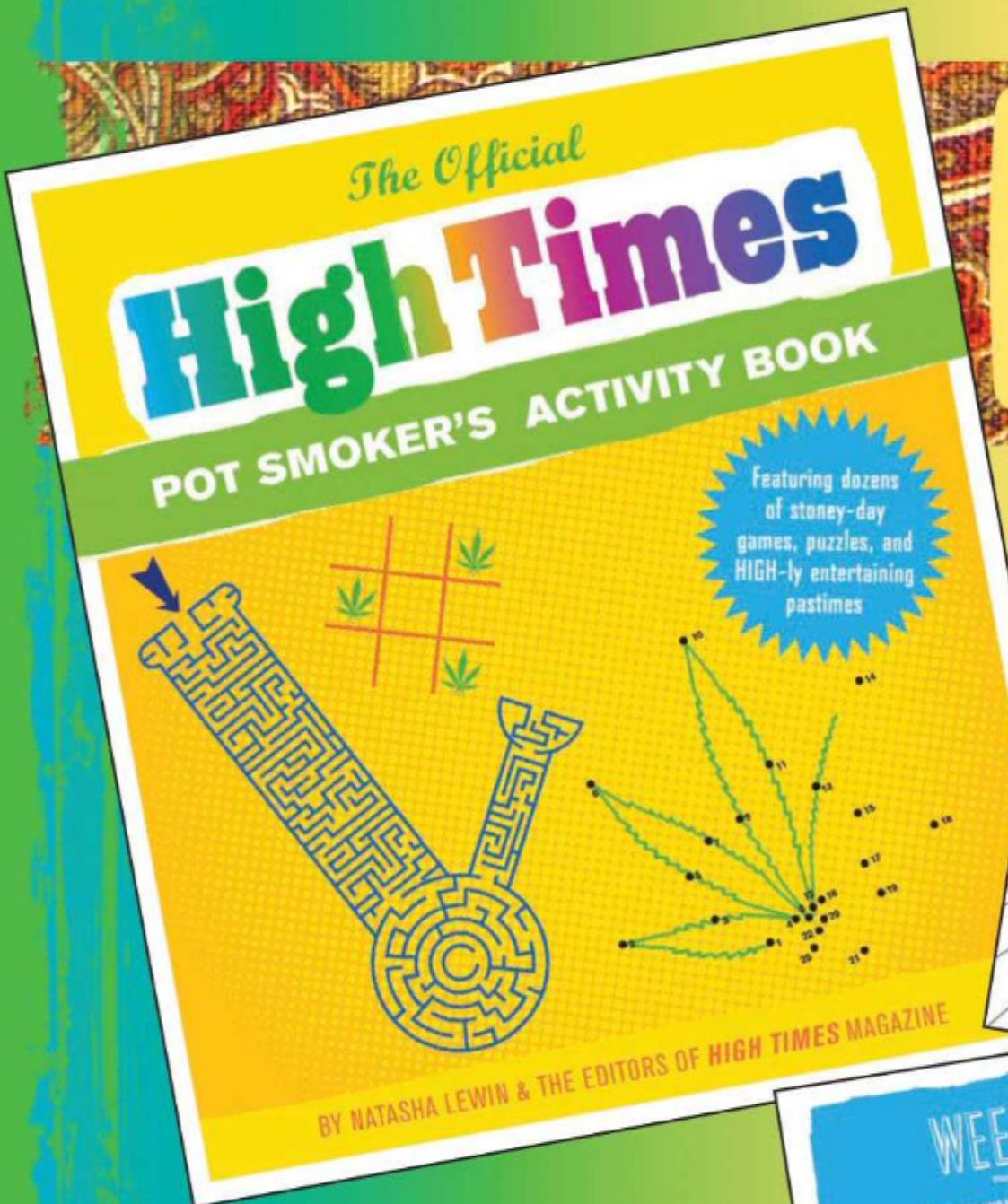
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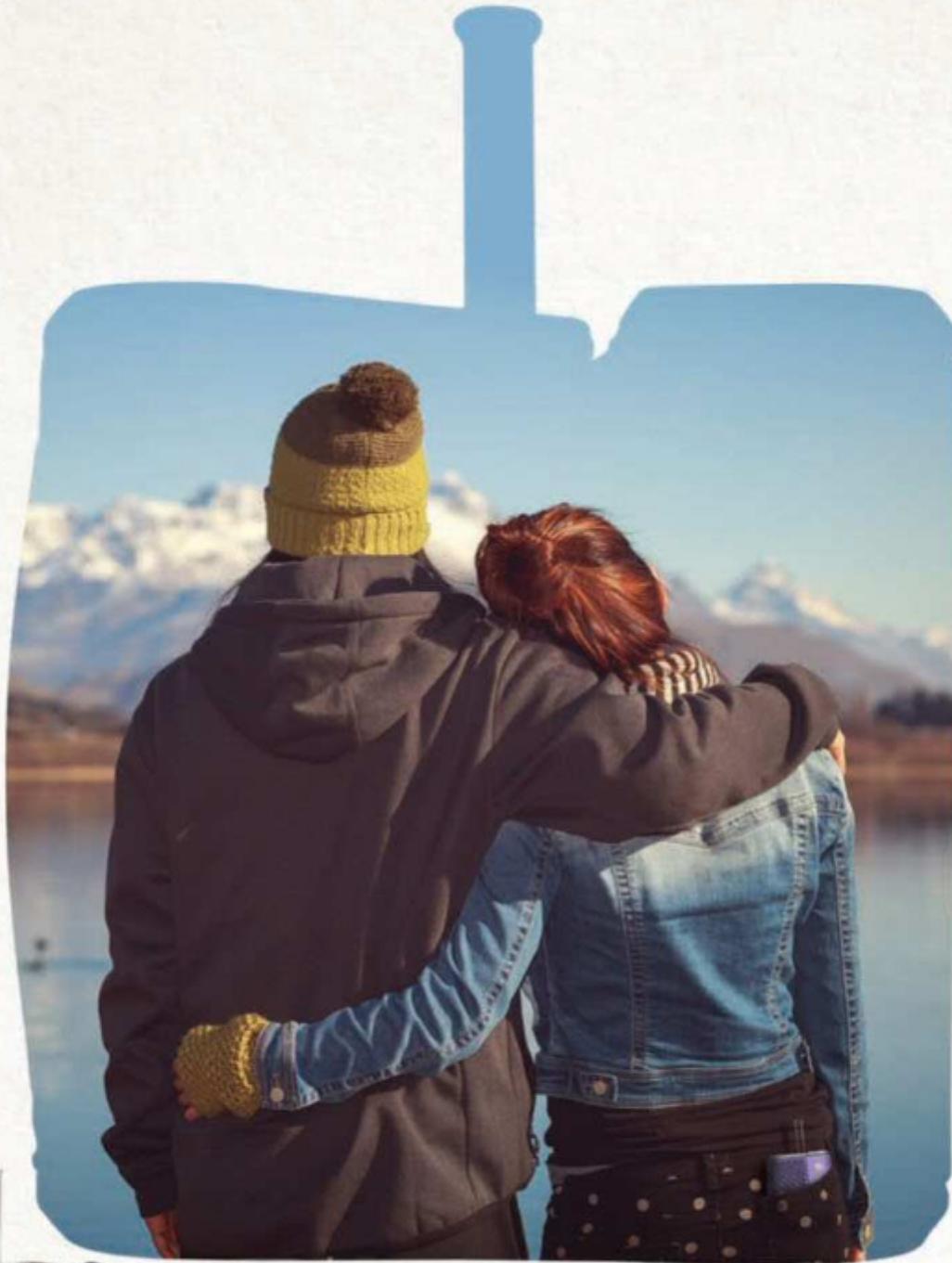
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Step-by-step tutorial videos, white papers, efficacy reports, and informative scientific articles allow any grower with an Internet connection to hone their skills and help produce their best harvest yet, free of charge.

Why Marijuana Growing Education Is a Top Priority for Advanced Nutrients

The medical marijuana industry is growing every minute. Legal marijuana is the fastest-growing industry in the U.S. and a slew of other businesses are jumping on the bandwagon as well. At present, 23 U.S. states allow medical-marijuana use, while 7 have legislation pending to issue licenses for it.

4 states and Washington, D.C. have legalized cannabis outright, while another California referendum in 2016 will allow recreational use in a state that was the first to permit medical marijuana use way back in 1996. It is estimated that medical marijuana is already a multibillion-dollar industry (without counting recreational sales).

While a great deal of information and misinformation appears daily on the Internet, novices and more advanced growers alike are always looking for a source of reliable information which can serve to improve their yields, both in terms of quality and quantity. A whole community of growers inhabit the growers' forums and are always looking to perfect their growing skills, without having to wade through hours and hours of irrelevant or misleading forum posts.

GMU is a bold step in a better direction, and by elevating the general level of education among growers, the quality of marijuana, especially as medicine, will skyrocket worldwide. This isn't just for connoisseurs. It's for children with epilepsy, as well as adults suffering from the effects of chemotherapy, chronic pain, and glaucoma. Thousands of YouTube videos help document the impressive results of therapeutic cannabis use.

Grow Med University is a course representing the cumulative experience of scores of the most competitive growing experts. From day one, it was envisioned as a community-driven resource, providing much needed knowledge to the medical-marijuana community. If you have a passion for hydroponics and growing marijuana to help patients get rid of illness and pain, then **Grow Med University** is for you.

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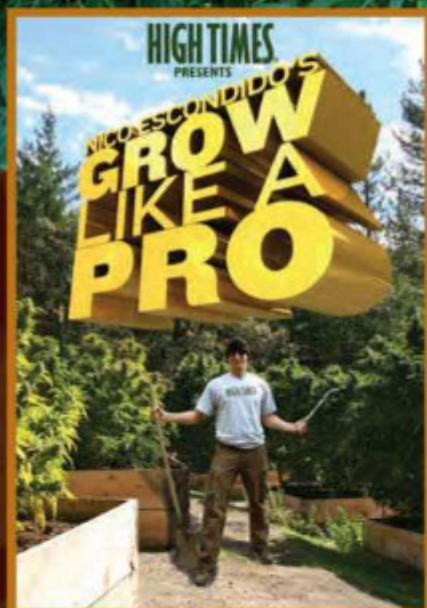
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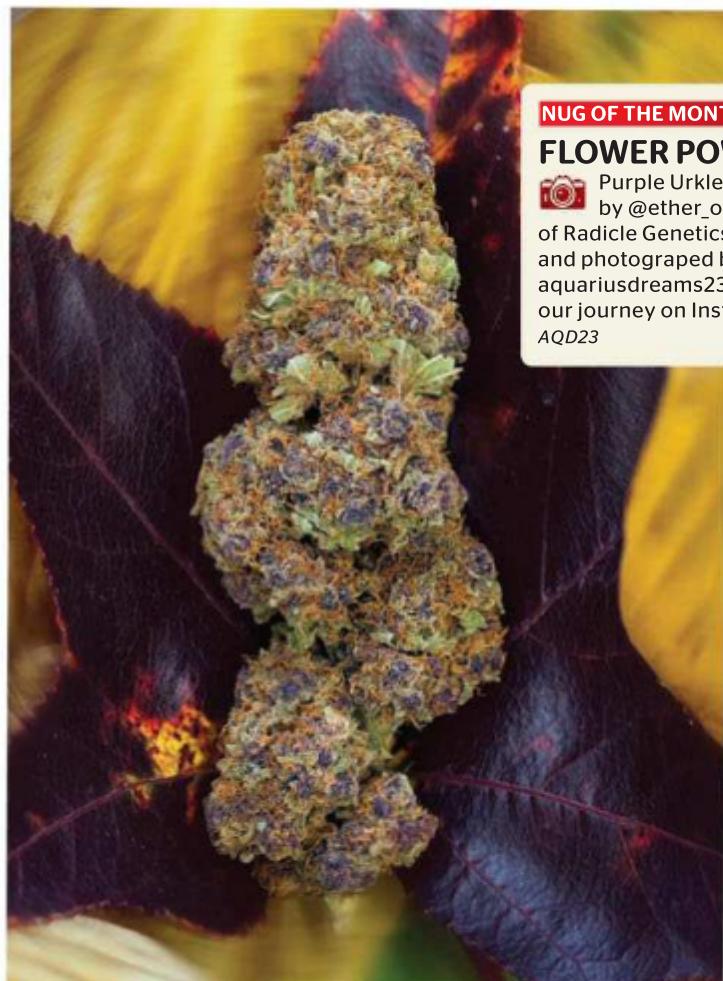
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GROW OF THE MONTH**DREAM BIG**

 We had to raise the roof twice! This pic is of our Blue Dream girls here at 8000 feet in the Colorado Rockies. Fall was mild and all did well. Grateful again here in the woods and mom is so proud. Thanks also to The Clone Store Denver for the genetics! Pic by SHITZOO

**CLOSE-UP OF THE MONTH****THINK SEED**

 The ending and beginning of life Dezerae Jobe Photography (check out my work at dezeraejobephoto.net)

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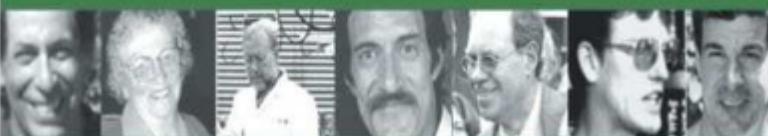
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► The Great Indoor vs. Outdoor Debate

So which is better: plants grown under that great big light bulb in the sky, or plants grown under artificial lights in a highly controlled environment? The *High Times* Cultivation Department explores the benefits and drawbacks of each method.

► Pot & Pets

Can our four-footed friends benefit from medical cannabis? We spoke with industry experts about treating dogs and cats with CBD—and what to do if they accidentally ingest your stash!

► Supporting Mega-Plants

Got some big-ass plants? Canadian cultivation correspondent Erik Biksa provides a step-by-step technique to ensure that yours stand strong while keeping their heavy branches closer to the light source, thereby producing bigger harvests.

► High Harm Reduction

The days when pot was lumped in with hard drugs, alcohol and tobacco are over. Now medical researchers are discovering that cannabis can actually help *end* harmful addictions. Contributor Sophie Saint Thomas uncovers the new medical applications for our favorite plant.

► The Baller Buyer's Guide

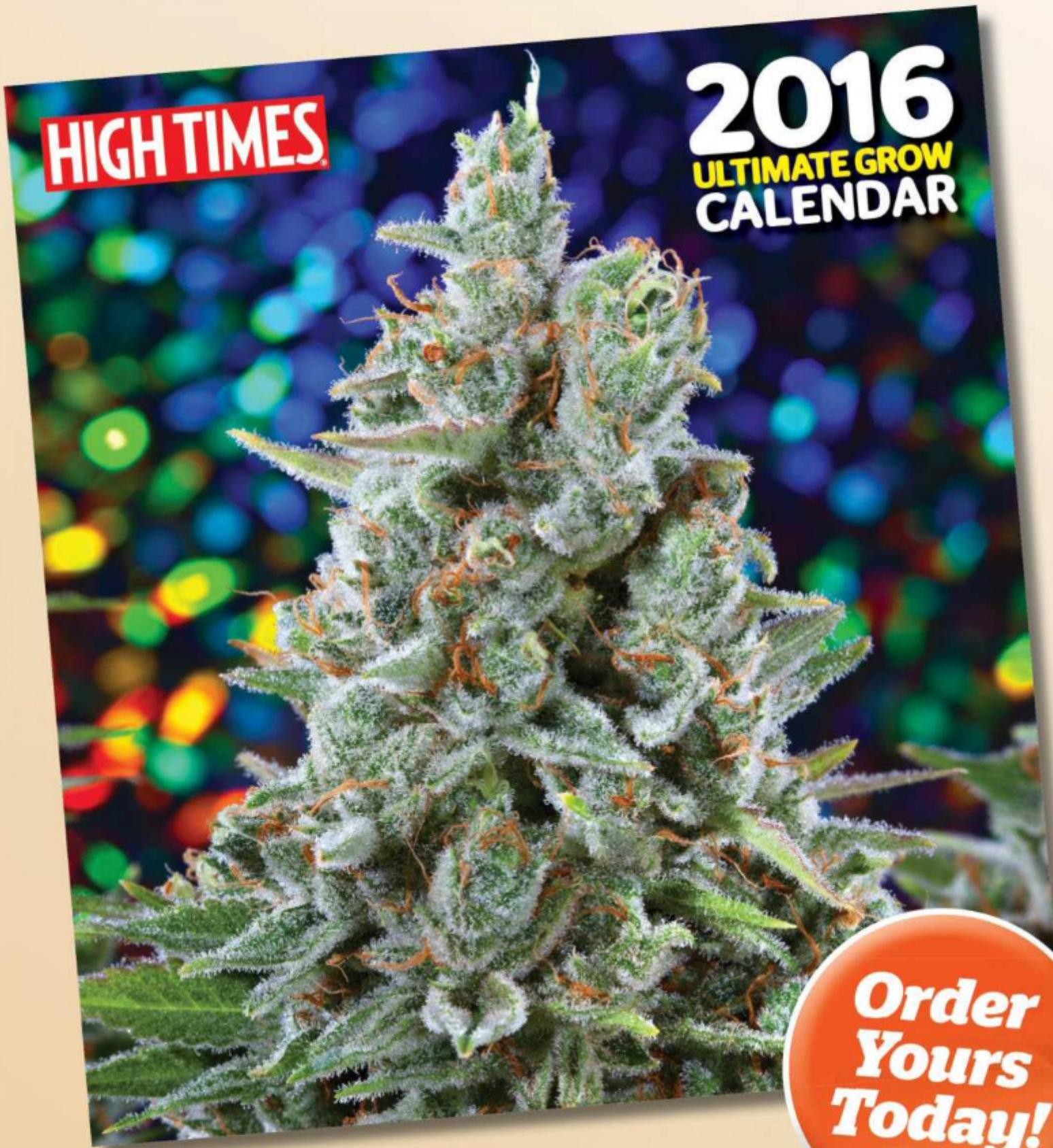
For all the high rollers out there, we've put together a dream list of luxury smoking accessories, swanky fashion, and other über-posh must-haves for marijuana lovers.

► The Real Drug Czar

Ethan Nadelmann is one of the country's foremost proponents of drug-policy reform, both in the US and abroad. The man who's been dubbed the "real Drug Czar" sits down for a candid discussion about cannabis legalization.

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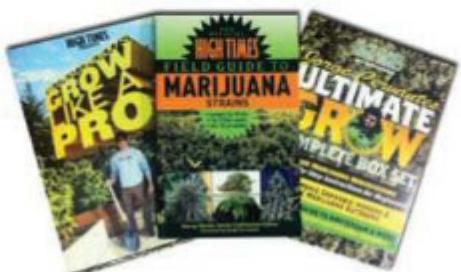
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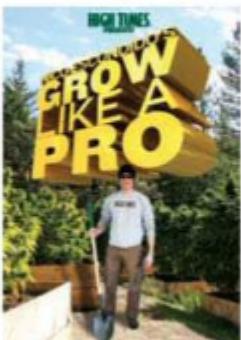
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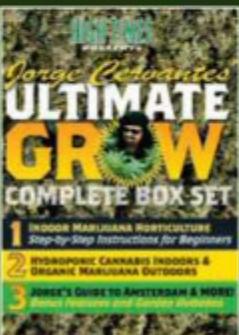
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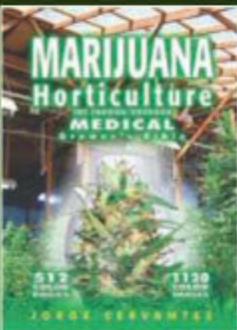
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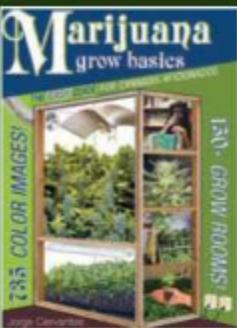
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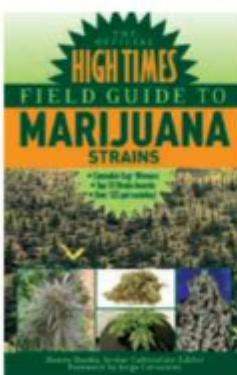
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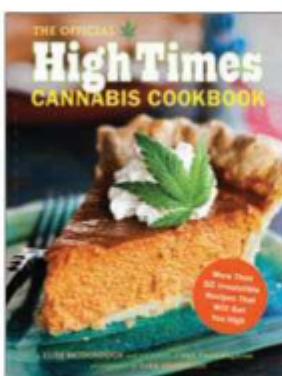
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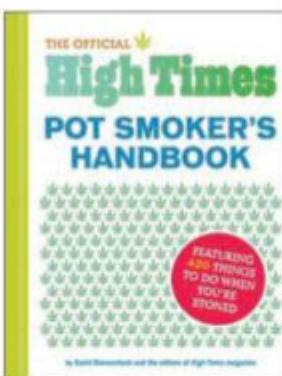
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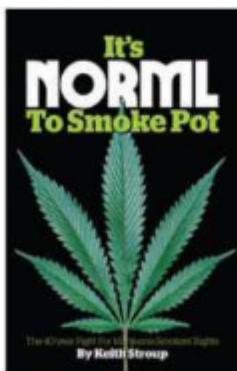
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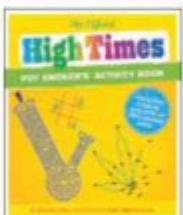
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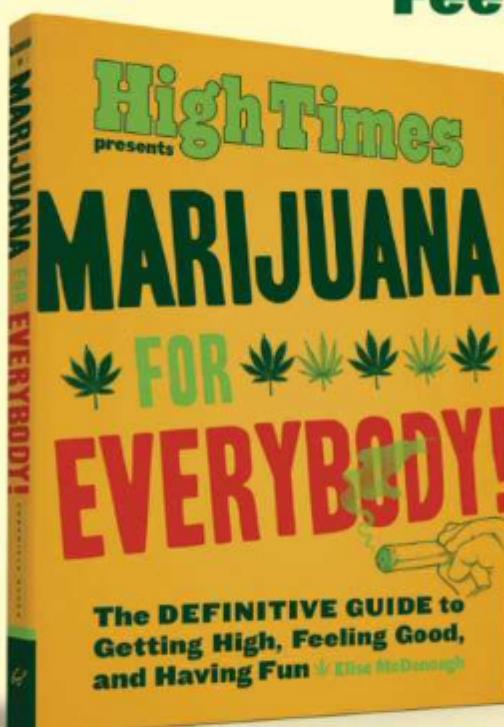
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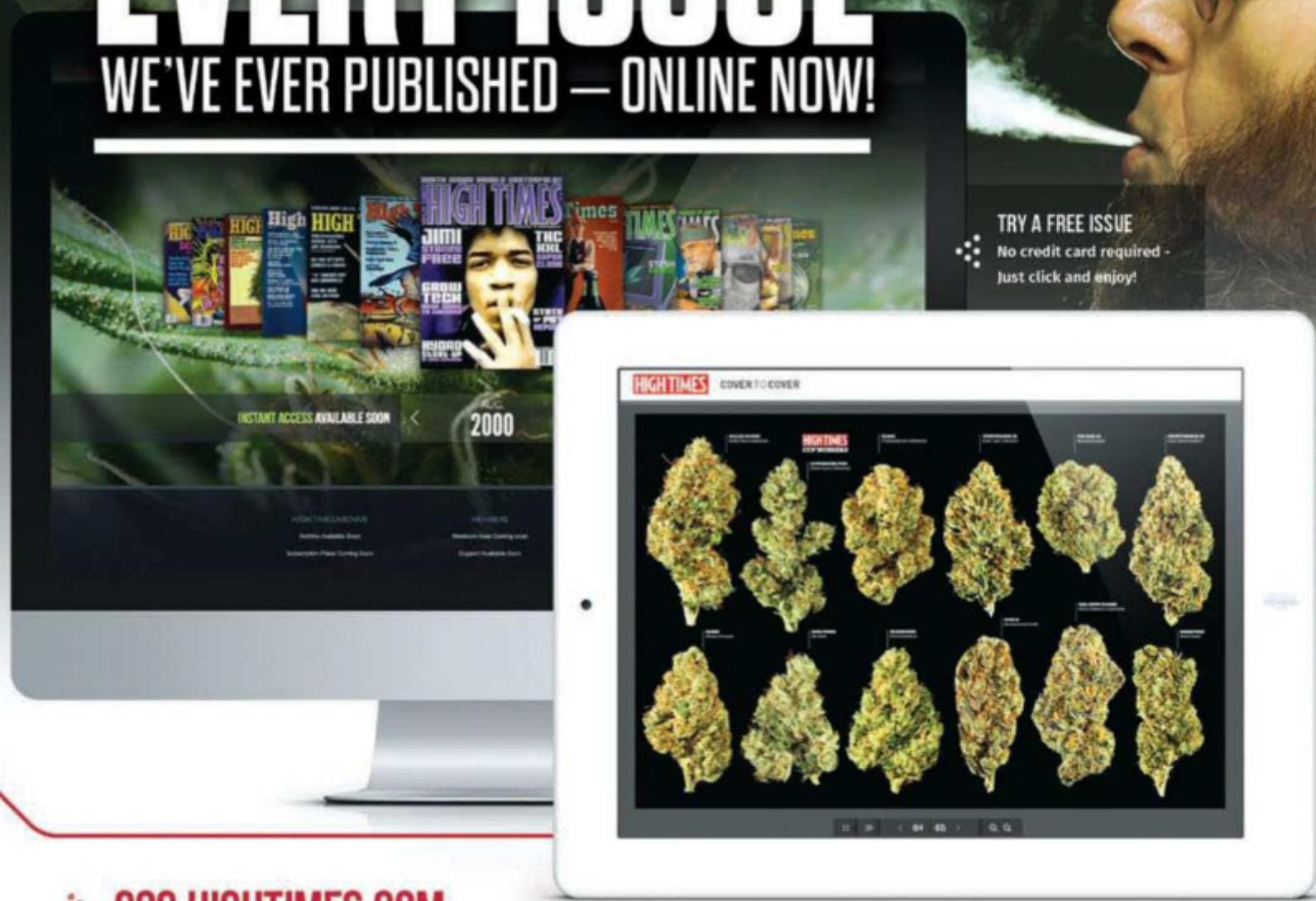
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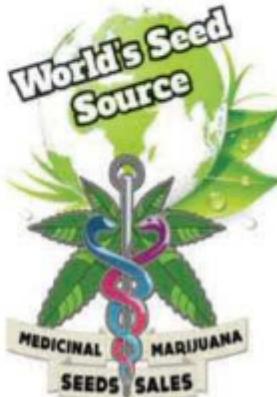
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